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Placing a Budget on Education

By **NICHOLAS PARKER, I**
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday, the Chief Financial Officer of the Boston Public Schools, John McDonough, presented a budget report to the BPS principals and headmasters. The report showed that the recent economic collapse will continue to damage BPS funding for the coming school year, Fiscal Year '11.

The increase in costs from last year, combined with a decrease of city and state funds, has resulted in a deficit of \$53.7 million. The deficit stems from cost increases of \$26.4 million, a city and state cut of \$17.3 million, and a \$10 million increase in funding for the city's English Language Learners program. In previous years, students who qualified for ELL had no access to ELL classes, so the Department of Justice intervened and required that the city add funding to the program.

As of Fiscal Year '10, the BPS budget is about \$810 million, including funding for Central Offices and the schools themselves. McDonough plans to cut money from both places to fill the \$53.7 million gap.

In his presentation last Thursday, McDonough showed the BPS headmasters, including Ms. Lynne Mooney Teta, the formula for cuts from schools. The Budget Office estimated the budget of each school for next year assuming typical cost increases, and deducted \$2,500 from that projected budget. They then deducted \$400 for every student between the 250th and the 1050th at each school (see the figure). Schools with close to or less than 250 will be cut less or not

at all because that cut would be a greater percentage of their budget. However, larger schools will only be cut to a maximum of \$322,500 between the base \$2,500 cut and the maximum per-student cut of \$320,000.

Unfortunately, the reductions in each school will only fill \$9.7 million of the \$53.7 million gap. "They did warn us that schools may face additional cuts," said Ms. Mooney Teta in an Argo interview last Friday, because impending Central Office cuts might not fill the budget gap.

Boston Latin School will be cut the maximum amount, \$322,500, set out by the budget proposal. The cut, says Ms. Mooney Teta, amounts to 4 percent of the school budget, or about four teaching positions. This cut comes on top of an eleven percent cut from last year, which still afflicts the budget, leaving us with a total cut of fifteen percent from the budget two years ago.

Ms. Mooney Teta said, "I think we need to recognize the fact that where we stand now after last years' cuts is that arts programming is at an unsustainable level. Health and wellness is at an unsustainable level. Administrative support is at an unsustainable level." Mooney Teta went on to say that class sizes are too large and teachers are overworked as it is, making it difficult

for them to bear the load of next year's budget cuts.



ARE WE HEADED HERE AGAIN?

Ms. Mooney Teta gave a brief budget presentation to parents last Tuesday, demonstrating a policy of open discussion of budget issues and also setting a precedent of transparency about the BPS budget. She will be giving a budget presentation on how she will handle the \$322,500 cut at tonight's (Tuesday, January 19) School Site Council Meeting at 6:00 P.M. in the Dining Hall.

Number of Students	Cuts
< 251	\$0
251 - 1,050	(# of students - 250) x \$400 e.g. A 300-student school will get cut \$20,000 [(300-250) x 400 = 20,000]
>1,050	\$320,000

BLS Mobilizes for Haiti

**BEVERLY NGUYEN, II
& B. KIM, III**
NEWS ASSISTANT EDITOR & EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

Last week, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake shook Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, and the surrounding area, leaving tens of thousands dead. The Red Cross estimates that up to three million people are affected, which is approximately a third of the country's population. As bodies continue to pile up on the streets, aid groups are desperately racing against time to find remaining survivors trapped under the rubble of collapsed buildings.

Due to lack of building codes in Haiti, the buildings were not able to withstand the blow of the country's strongest earthquake in more than two centuries. As the poorest nation in the western hemisphere, Haiti is no stranger to tremendous setbacks.

"This is a huge and a horrifying catastrophe, the full consequences of which we do not know," said UN humanitarian chief John Holmes, according to BBC. Many Haitians are congregating in makeshift camps, while others continue to remain without shelter.

World leaders have reacted with support, sympathy, and offers of aid to the humanitarian crisis in Haiti. President Barack Obama has declared that Haiti will "not be forgotten," and pledged one of the greatest relief efforts in recent US history,

making Haiti a "top priority" of his administration and committing \$100 million to Haiti. Support began rushing into Haiti from all corners of the globe immediately after the tragic incident.

On a smaller scale, students of the Boston Latin School have stepped up to the plate. Faced with this unprecedented crisis, BLS's humanitarian clubs have coalesced into an umbrella organization known as the Humanitarian Initiative. Rather than having each group fundraise individually, the Humanitarian Initiative members decided to combine their efforts and donate together. The prospects look bright—last time these groups coordinated their efforts, they collected over twenty-five thousand dollars for tsunami relief.

The Humanitarian Initiative met for the first time on Friday, January 15th, in order to discuss ways to contribute. The Initiative grappled with one major issue, however—given the breakdown in Haiti's economic structure, it would not be suitable to give monetary aid, as there would



DEVASTATION IN HAITI NEEDS BLS' HELP

be no way for the victims to benefit from it. Many stores have crumbled as a result of the earthquake leaving food, water, and shelter in short supply. Therefore, the Humanitarian Initiative has decided to donate money to organizations with goods and services on the ground in Haiti. The next question is which organizations to donate to, with the options being either well-known charities like Oxfam America and UNICEF or local Haitian organizations.

Several clubs in the Humanitarian Initiative are getting involved in humanitarian work for the first time; ...

BLS MOBILIZES FOR HAITI
Continued on page 4

News

Editor's Note

Monday to Thursday, it was going well. Section editors edited as never before. People actually Did Their Work (well, most of the time!). My list of articles flourished like a blossoming flower; my ability to make terrible metaphors increased commensurately as well.

On Final Friday, buoyed by our massive and unexpected success, we were set to finish within the confines of the week, without resorting to the dreaded Sleepover Saturday. Although the weekend editing has been the bane of editors' existence since the dawn of time, it's been a constant pain we have to deal with...However, I was soon to learn that this banal, quotidian, pedestrian-- perhaps even quiescent-- existence would be rudely interrupted.

As Dominick! feverishly laid out page after page; Rachel spazzed out about how awesome it was that A&E was almost done;

and everyone in general did their typical job (including Andy Vo eating food and not helping anyone), we suddenly heard a vast moan emanating from the depths of the basement. An expression of utter fear froze the face of every man, woman and child (Andy Vo counts as a child), except for Faith of course, who's just a beast. Soon, this strange moaning approached, a creeping harbinger of doom nearing our art-wing bastion. We saw the horrible visage at the end of the hallway: the Copy section had been turned into zombies! Jerome was at the front of the pack, burbling as the remains of half-digested fivesies dripped from his throat. The others quickly followed, a battering ram of death into the aisle between the Argo computers. A raging battle ensued-- chairs, laptops, and Andy Vo were used to throw at the undead Argonauts who knew no fear, and more

importantly knew no satisfaction except the taste of human flesh.

However, we of the Argo who were still living knew a greater satisfaction: finishing the newspaper. With grit and resolve, we fought back the zombies. (Highlights go to Faith, with laser eyes of steel) In the end, we defeated the greatest test of all time, our own turned into the undead, and still managed to finish the Argo on Friday!

Or maybe our test was really just having a server/internet crash. Or whateva.

Be Ever Vigilant,
Will Poff-Webster
Editor-in-Chief

Andy Vo
Zombie Killah/Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Readiness Starts in the Classroom

By **BRIAN MAHONEY, II**
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

A recent study by the nonprofit bipartisan organization Mission: Readiness has produced a report claiming that a perplexing three-quarters of Americans, ages 17 through 24, are ineligible to serve in the armed forces. The majority of the ineligibility stems from criminal records, mental and physical disabilities and the lack of a high school diploma or a GED equivalent.

Mission: Readiness is comprised of retired generals and admirals who promote a better education and fitness for young Americans in order to keep the nation safe and secure. Because less than one percent of Americans are actually in the military, Mission: Readiness believes that it is important to have ready access to a larger percentage of the population.

The organization is also concerned that students in general have a very limited understanding of what the military does and what it can provide. In my class the other day, while discussing a character who happened to be a colonel as well as a lawyer, a classmate of mine exclaimed, "How is he a lawyer? I thought he was in the army!" This ignorance is common and expected at Boston Latin School. Last October, when a lieutenant from the U.S. Navy visited the school to talk about admissions to the Naval Academy, only two students showed up. No Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program exists at BLS. In addition, many school districts in the area have barred them from public schools. Thanks to the video game and film industry, the most students know about the military is what they have seen in Call of Duty or Black



THE ARMED FORCES CAREER CENTER NEAR PARK STREET STATION

MAGGIE LEE (II)

Hawk Down.

Not everyone in the military is in the infantry; there are also doctors, nurses, lawyers and pilots. Service academies and programs like ROTC help pay for college in exchange for a few years of service. Reserve programs allow servicemen and women to have a normal life at home and hold a normal job. These opportunities seem to be overshadowed by the media's portrayal of people joining the service for a quick buck.

Americans need a stronger education to ensure that the United States will not slip any further from power. The future calls for leaders in both the private and public sectors, and these leaders will need to be educated. The military needs bright-minded individuals to run it, just

like a Fortune 500 company does, but these individuals also need to be in shape. Physical education programs have either been watered down or eliminated. Moreover, fast food corporations have preyed upon the children who cannot see the dangers of an unhealthy lifestyle. Young Americans need both a healthy mind and body to succeed in the 21st century. Academic education keeps kids out of trouble and benefits them in the long run, just as after-school athletic programs and physical education keep kids healthy. If schools across the country address these problems, most of the students that are currently unqualified for military service can become eligible. They would also be healthier, better educated, and more prepared to face the upcoming decades.



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Argo

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The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

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Greater Boston High School
Newspaper Competition
Excellence in Sports Writing

New 2007 Honorable Mention
Greater Boston High School
Newspaper Competition
Excellence in News Writing

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Association
Competition

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1996 Third Place
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High School
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Competition

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2009-2010 Academic Year

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News

Working 9 to 5

BY OLIVIA GRANT, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

So, what do you want to be when you grow up?

Some people know the answer to this question as soon as they learn to speak. As for others, the answer is not as straightforward. However, most people can agree on one thing—trying before buying.

An internship is a way to explore career paths, network with people in particular fields, make money and build a resume. Finding an internship can be difficult, but Boston Latin School has its own Private Industry Council (PIC) Office that makes this task manageable. The office, located in the Schawbel Center on the first floor above the library, is run by Ms. Roselys Esteve. As BLS’ PIC Coordinator, Ms. Esteve stresses the importance of “following up” and “making yourself known” from the first time a candidate visits her office, to the end of the internship. For those who do not have a resume or have no idea where to start, the first step is to visit the PIC Office and have a quick conversation with Ms. Esteve about how to create a resume and begin the job hunt. This discussion usually ends with the visitor receiving a packet on how to create a resume and filling out an informational sheet. Once a job hunter is done polishing and formatting a resume, he or she can begin to look at their options.

From politics to art, there is a job experience for everyone. However, aspiring engineers may have trouble finding internships. Meisha Brooks (I), who plans to study Mechanical Engineering next year, believes that “liabilities are a huge issue,” but adds, “there are plenty of summer engineering programs out there and although you won’t be making any money—in fact you’ll probably have to pay—the experiences are great.” For those seeking additional opportunities,

Sanchay Jain (I), a former participant of the John William Ward Public Service Fellowship, suggests, “looking at the school announcements on a regular basis,” aside from going to the PIC Office



MS. ESTEVE HELPS A STUDENT IN SEARCH OF EMPLOYMENT

and reading school flyers. Jain goes on to say, “It’s important to remember that even if there is one internship that you’re dying to be a part of, you should definitely apply to multiple programs, because BLS is BLS, and there’s a chance you won’t get into that particular opportunity especially when you’re competing with other talented students.” Therefore, students are recommended to shop around and to apply to all programs that pique their particular interests, so that if applicants are not accepted to one internship, they may have another as a back up. Generally, however, these opportunities not only require essays and recommendations, but also meetings with candidates to find out more than what is on paper. This is where the interview comes in. This is a chance for potential employers to learn more about applicants and vice versa. Occasionally, an internship or a fellowship does not require an interview in the traditional sense. Joseph Graham (I), a former State Street intern comments, “I had done an interview workshop the year

before in preparation for any job. The application last year [for State Street] was also quite simple with only a few short answer questions.” The interview process can also be rigorous. For example, acceptance into the Ward Fellowship consists of two rounds of interviews. According to Jain, the best way is to be “confident and in a good mood. Also, while answering questions, it’s okay to take a couple of seconds to compose yourself, so that you’re not stuttering or blurting out something stupid. At the same time, you don’t want to sit there in awkward silence for a couple of minutes.” Gabriella Betances (I), who worked at Harvard Medical School’s Project Success Program

this past summer, says that the interview process, “was laid back, but still dress up! Just be honest and enthusiastic.” If students still have interview anxiety, there is no need to fret. Ms. Esteve requires all students, who are in search of internships, to complete an interview workshop. This workshop consists of how to dress, proper interview etiquette, and how to tackle the tricky questions such as: “tell us about yourself” or, “what is one trait about you that needs improvement?” From writing cover letters to giving your two weeks notice, Ms. Esteve does it all! So seal the deal with the interview – don’t regret it!

After all of the preparation, potential interns finally feel ready to enter the workforce. Ms. Esteve suggests that students “start now, because the competition is fierce.” The earlier one applies, the better one’s chances are of getting jobs for the summer. It shows initiative and genuine interest. With successful internships, students can explore and discover potential career fields.

The Decade in Review

2000:

George W. Bush wins the presidency in one of history’s closest elections.

2002:

American Idol, the popular reality competition that searches for musical talent across the country, debuts.

2004:

The Boston Red Sox win their first World Series in 86 years.

2006:

An Inconvenient Truth, Al Gore’s documentary film centering around global climate change, is released.

2008:

The stock market crashes, causing Americans to face the worst recession since the Great Depression in 1929.

2001:

Al-Qaeda attacks the United States, crashing three airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The Bush Administration declares a war on terrorism.

2003:

The invasion of Iraq begins.

2005:

Hurricane Katrina floods New Orleans, causing severe destruction and becoming one of the five deadliest hurricanes ever in the United States.

2007:

Cornelia A. Kelley, Boston Latin School’s first female Head Master, retires after serving for nine years.

2009:

Barack Hussein Obama is inaugurated as the nation’s 44th, and first African-American, president.

Cape Wind

BY EMILY CIRILLO, I
STAFF WRITER

The Cape Wind Organization has recently made a controversial proposal. The plan is to build America’s first offshore wind farm, situated in the Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound. According to the Cape Wind website, the project will “provide three quarters of the Cape and Islands electricity needs” and “provide clean, renewable energy capable of replacing 113 million gallons of oil per year.” At a time when

people are trying to become more energy efficient, the proposal is a much-needed solution.

Martha Coakley, the Democratic



WIND TURBINES ON THE CAPE

Massachusetts nominee for Senate, supports the \$1.6 billion renewable energy project. Conversely, United States Senator Paul G. Kirk (D-MA), the interim senator appointed after the death of former Senator Ted Kennedy, wants to delay the project. In a recent interview with the Boston Herald, Senator Kirk said, “We shouldn’t be running ahead with a private project [Cape Wind] before the federal coastal plan is finished.” The senator does not oppose the project on principle,

but does want to postpone it until the federal government completes the plans for the coast. The residents who live on the Cape also oppose the current plans for Cape Wind. Many residents do not want the proposed 130 wind turbines to obstruct their view of the Nantucket Sound. They are also worried about the possible noise generated by the turbines. Two Native American tribes from Massachusetts are also opposed to the proposal. They claim that the construction will disturb their sacred burial ground, which is now underwater.

Stolen Laptop

BY MYLES McDONOUGH, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“I pledge to uphold the Boston Latin School values of honor and integrity. I will not lie, cheat, plagiarize, or steal.”

- The Boston Latin School Honor Code Pledge

On December 15, 2009, Mrs. Margaret Miller, the Latin teacher in Room 103, had to leave the building shortly during R7, her free period. When she returned, she noticed nothing abnormal and left again several times after school to tutor and prepare for the next day’s lessons. However, when she returned after 3:00 pm, she realized that something was missing – her laptop had

disappeared.

The worst was confirmed when several students dropped by. Though they had visited Mrs. Miller earlier, she was in another part of the building. They assumed that she had already gone home because her laptop was not in the room. However, Mrs. Miller had never moved it from the classroom. The laptop was not merely missing – it had been stolen.

This laptop was one of the many issued to teachers by the Boston Public School system through a program called the Laptops for Learning (L4L) Initiative in April 2008. It was a white MacBook with a 13.3 inch screen, and at the time of the theft, it had a sticker on one of its corners, labeled with a Boston Public School

inventory control number. The sticker, however, may have already been removed by the thief. This model of MacBook is worth about \$1,000 today, though it cost more when it was first issued. Mrs. Miller was forced to compensate the Boston Public Schools for the stolen laptop with \$650 of her own money.

When asked how she felt about the crime, Mrs. Miller replied that she was “angry at the violation. Saddened that it was almost certainly a member of the school community. Frustrated by all the work I had to do to rebuild a tiny fraction of the lost data, and by how hard it is to reach OIIT [the Boston Public Schools’ Office of Instructional and Information Technology] but really heart-

ened by the support I’ve gotten from within BLS, especially from my students, who have been completely awesome. I’ve been overwhelmed by them.”

Attempts to find the laptop so far have been unsuccessful. Both the OIIT and the Boston Police Department have been notified, and Officer Manny took Mrs. Miller’s statement the morning after the theft. A global positioning system (GPS) chip embedded in the computer was remotely activated when the report was received, but the laptop remains missing. The search for the computer and the person who stole it continues. If you have any information regarding the theft, please report it to an administrator or to Officer Manny.

News

Explosive-Laden Underwear? Check.

JONATHAN ONDREJKO, II

STAFF WRITER

This past Christmas, Nigerian extremist Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was put on Santa's naughty list after he loaded his underwear with chemical explosives and attempted to ignite them on his flight, which had 300 passengers on board, from Belgium to Detroit.

The bombing attempt would likely have been successful had it not been for the bravery of the passengers sitting near Abdulmutallab. Much of the criticism, however, stems from the knowledge that at least two credible warnings had been ignored prior to the incident on Northwest Airlines Flight 253. Abdulmutallab's father, Alhaji Umaru Mutallab, had apparently reported to the United States intelligence community that his son was an Islamic extremist who was spending a considerable amount of time in Yemen. This incident, coupled with Mutallab's warning and various other pieces of Central Intelligence Agency information on terrorist activities, has proven to be a considerable embarrassment to the counterterrorism institutions in the United States government.

Abdulmutallab's near success can be attributed to not only the failure to share information between agencies, but also the failure to recognize the information's vital importance. In the days following the incident, President Barack Obama told

the nation that "at this stage in the review process, it appears that this incident was not the fault of a single individual or organization, but rather a systemic failure across organizations and agencies." Because of the ambiguous stance that President Obama has taken on the subject, it is unclear what, if any, major changes will result from the incident. The Senate Intelligence Committee is scheduled to have hearings on the issue beginning January 21.

Although Abdulmutallab's original intention was to take down a plane, it has certainly managed to modify the tone of the White House on the subject of terrorists. Just three days after the attempted attack, President Obama confronted the nation with perhaps the most direct words he has ever publicly spoken on the issue of terrorism: "We are at war; we are at war against al-Qaeda. We will do whatever it takes to defeat them."

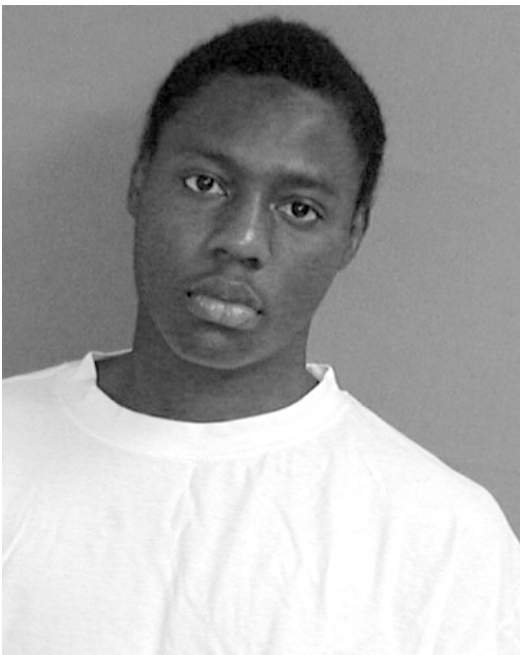
This incident has come only a year after President Obama was elected as the candidate who would be friendlier to the Muslim world, and just eight months after Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano replaced the word "terrorism" with "man-caused disasters" in her first testimony to the U.S. Congress. It has been shown that if President Obama wants to avoid the incessant scrutiny of Republicans on the issue of domestic security, he will have to appear more hard-line and tough than he has been thus far. A difficult road

lies ahead for President Obama as he tries to reach out to the innocent and uninvolved Muslim world abroad while simultaneously appearing rigid on terrorism at home.

Political ramifications aside, two passengers in particular are being recognized as the heroes of the incident. Dutch passenger Jasper Schuringa, along with the stewardesses on the plane, are credited with subduing the suspect and putting out the small fire which Abdulmutallab had succeeded in setting. A few passengers suffered slight burns, but ultimately, the situation was dealt with quickly and effectively by those present. If anything, it has only served as an embarrassment to al-Qaeda that the attempt failed because of the bravery of their victims.

Abdulmutallab plead not guilty on January 7 to the charges of attempted murder and the use of weapons of mass destruction. Attorney General Eric Holder has claimed that Abdulmutallab is cooperating with interrogators and telling them valuable information about al-Qaeda in exchange for a plea bargain. In any case, it is likely that he will spend the rest of his life in prison, or at least under constant supervision.

This attempted attack also serves to challenge those who incorrectly believe that terrorism is limited to poor, ill-educated Middle Easterners. While



UMAR FAROUK ABDULMUTALLAB

Abdulmutallab did travel to the Middle East, he was born and raised in a luxurious lifestyle, receiving education from the highest ranked schools in Africa and Great Britain. His father, who had warned officials about his son, is a wealthy banker in Nigeria. The last place Abdulmutallab inhabited was a four-million-dollar flat in one of London's richest neighborhoods.

Ultimately, the American flying public is suffering the real loss—passengers could have to deal with new requirements when boarding flights.

BLS MOBILIZES FOR HAITI

Continued from page 1

Fashion Talent plans to host a clothing drive, while the Bible Club has organized a bake sale for tomorrow, January 20th, and has already collected over two hundred dollars in homerooms. On Thursday, the Bible Club will hold a non-denominational prayer

group in which students and teachers of the BLS community will present songs, poems, and speeches in dedication to Haiti.

Other clubs, including Amnesty International, STAND, Invisible Children, Red Cross, MicroLoan, and Project Book-Net have also joined with the Humanitarian Initiative. The Initiative plans to visit homerooms, much like Globe Santa, to

ask students for contributions. Many have already individually pitched in through Facebook groups and via text message. Wyclef Jean, a popular Haitian-American singer and nephew of the Haitian ambassador, has encouraged cell phone users to text YELE to 501501, which would donate five dollars to Haiti through an addition to their phone bills. He has already collected

over eight million dollars.

Help is badly needed in the earthquake-ravaged country, where even a week later people remain trapped under rubble and lying in the streets, waiting for medical attention. However, Obama promises the Haitians, "In this, your hour of greatest need, American stands with you. The world stands with you."

The Decade in Technology

BY KERRY HU, II

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The world is constantly changing. Positive change depends on the most important factor of evolution: technology. This field has progressed exponentially, especially in recent years. Moreover, as the first decade of the century comes to a close, people may wonder what has been accomplished during that time. The answer? Much more than they think.

First, Apple's revolutionary "iProducts" are arguably the most prominent and popular technological innovations of the last decade. With more than 220 million units sold to date, Apple's iPod line first appeared on the markets in late 2001, nearly replacing previous music players. The first models (now known as 'classic') ushered in a new era of portable media.

They were light, convenient, and accessible, including a rotating, touch sensitive wheel for navigation and iTunes for song downloads. With improved ease of access and sophisticated hardware, the iPod set a new standard for portable audio devices. Later on, variations including the "mini," (2004) "nano," (2005) "shuffle," (2005) and "touch" (2007) were introduced. These included different features such as increased storage, smaller size, thinner design, Wi-Fi capabilities, touch screens, and the ability to run applications.

Just like music players, telecommunications have advanced not only in the quality of calls, but also in the very cell phones itself. The use of cell phones has risen dramatically in the past decade. Providers including AT&T, T-Mobile, Sprint, and Verizon have expanded their networks and selection of cellular technology.

The Motorola Razr, introduced in 2004, is the most popular clamshell (flip) phone of all time. Nevertheless, the world's best-selling cell phone is the Nokia 1100, which has sold a mind-boggling 200 million units since it hit shelves in 2003. Though it does not include a camera or keyboard, or have Bluetooth capabilities, it performed well because it targeted everyday users who did not need an advanced phone. On the other hand, advanced "smartphones" are still a new concept in today's market. A well-known one is the iPhone, designed and built by Apple, and loaded to the brim with the latest innovative features. This phone functions as a text-messenger, camera, internet browser, and even a PDA and portable game console.

The cell phones mentioned above depend on the transfer of electromagnetic signals to operate, as do many modern electronics. This "wireless capability" has already shaped much of the world. A growing number of people rely on the internet to read the news, chat with friends, play games, conduct research, and much more. Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia created in 2001, is currently the sixth most visited site. Many of its millions of articles are written by volunteers. Although some claim that it is inaccurate and unreliable, its enormous popularity reflects its usefulness as the most expansive free online encyclopedia. Youtube, a video-sharing website launched in 2005, is ranked the third most popular website internationally and garners over a billion daily visitors. Facebook, a social networking site with over 350 million daily users, was founded by Mark Zuckerberg in 2004. It is another top website, second

only to Google--and even Google is only 12 years old, indicating the newness of the internet era. The internet has undoubtedly been a huge defining factor of the last decade; its many innovations attest to the powerful role that the web plays in connecting people and sharing ideas.

Furthermore, in the past decade, scientific discoveries have shown that air pollution caused by vehicles contributes to global climate change. This discovery led to the growth of the green transportation industry, which has recently increased the efficiency of automobiles and decreased their environmental impact. For example, when the Toyota Prius was first introduced to Americans, it had 41 miles per gallon and a cut in carbon dioxide emissions when it was first introduced in America in 2001. This was due to its innovative combination of combustion and electric propulsion systems, which in turn improved its fuel economy. Fast forward nine years, and its most recent third generation successor tops the hybrid list with an improved 50 mpg and 98% customer satisfaction rating.

All in all, a great number of successful inventions have been pioneered since the clock struck January 1, 2000--enough to say that our world has risen far up the ladder of technological breakthroughs. So many discoveries have been made in the ten years since the end of the 20th century. Now another question arises: how much can be done in another 10, 50, or 100 years? This is only the beginning of the progress that lies ahead, for human creativity and innovation knows no bounds.



FLICKR

FORUM

Letter to the Editor

December 9, 2009

Dear Argo,

I am writing with reference to the Issue II article, "Bad Teachers at BLS" by Joe Graham. I am sending a copy of this letter to the headmaster also.

BRAVO!!—Someone has finally addressed the 375 pound gorilla in the room (this refers to an obvious situation that no one mentions). The article did not go far

enough.

I have never been treated as rudely as on Open House nights by teachers - and this is without knowing which student I belonged to- I was just another impediment to their enjoying life, if only they could get rid of those pesky students and curious parents.

I do not want to continue in an entirely negative vein, there are SOME won-

derful, caring teachers at BLS. And there really is nothing to be done - not with a strong teachers' union. We just have to have faith that Ms. Mooney Teta will try to weed these people out of the school- too late to help those being "taught" by these frauds, but benefiting students who follow.

Thank you for giving voice to a subject that is MUCH talked about by students and parents. Let us hope you will be heard.

Your Faithful Reader,
Phyllis Allison
Class II and '08 parent

The Argo welcomes comment from all members of the BLS community on articles or letters published in our pages. Please email us at blsargo.forum@gmail.com

Is Our School's Reputation Well-Deserved?

BY NHU LE, IV
STAFF WRITER

Boston Latin School, founded in 1635, celebrates its 375th birthday this school year. As every student who walks these hallowed halls knows (mostly because it is imprinted in our minds by parents, teachers and administrators alike), it was the first public school in America and remains one of the most prestigious public high schools in the United States. In fact, U.S. News & World Report named Boston Latin School one of the top twenty high schools in the country in 2009. However, as we use this notable occasion to sing the praises of our school, it is only fitting to ask: is Boston Latin School's reputation deserved?

BLS students are successful on the standard assessments of student achievement, like the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exam, and one cannot deny that BLS students work very hard, almost to the point of exhaustion, to compete in the school's sink-or-swim environment. Many of us have grown in leaps and bounds in terms of study habits, but whether the credit for this growth is due to the school's influence is another matter.

To get into BLS, one must have both good grades in elementary school and a high score on the Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE) in 7th or 9th grade. These admissions criteria almost always ensure that students en-

ter Boston Latin already equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to do well on standardized tests. Thus, the students' MCAS scores do not necessarily reflect the school's ability to teach its students new smarts.

Nevertheless, I do believe that BLS students probably perform better at BLS than they would anywhere else. It is here that most of these students meet their academic adversaries for the first time. The intelligent, ambitious students at BLS obviously strive to be at the top of the pack; this competitive atmosphere is a huge component of the students' success. But their success has nothing to do with the actual merits of the school. BLS students make up for BLS's deficiencies, and through their hard work the school's flaws do not show up on their transcripts. There are plenty of bad teachers here, as pointed out by a recent Argo article. Although teachers here do on average teach the material at a faster pace than it is taught at other

schools, that does not necessarily mean they are better at teaching the material. The true cause of students' enhanced performance is their own efforts and the competitive environment that they create.

Even when their needs are not met by teachers, many students will go above and beyond reasonable expectations by studying by themselves. In fact, I have been here for two years and have passed numerous subjects only by teaching myself the material; my teachers were so awful that, had I not taken this

initiative, I would surely have failed to learn. That is not to say that good teachers can not also make a student work harder or better, or that they are completely lacking at BLS. However, BLS does have bad teachers, and aggravatingly this is often unrecognized because students work harder to make up for the difference.

It should also be noted that the school has a somewhat Darwinian atmosphere. Most of us know at least a handful of students who have dropped

out. The school internally "weeds out" the under-performing students, and those who survive are hardened and are more likely to succeed; but is such a difficult and merciless environment what one strives for in a good school? To be fair, the administration in recent years has tried to give students more support. I commend them for that. Nonetheless, the students who fail (and their legitimate reasons for failing) do not factor into the school's "success" equation.

Despite all these grievances, I do love this school. It combines some of the best parts of a public school and a private one—a wider variety of classes, extracurricular activities and sports, a diverse student body and an atmosphere that encourages achievement. It is here that I've found great teachers, great friends and great opportunities—I have grown up. But that's not the full story, and a momentous anniversary is no reason to push our problems under the rug. It's also here that I've met terrible teachers, used books with ripped pages smeared with profanity, and struggled in darkness by myself. I am a freshman, but in my two years here, I've already become disillusioned with BLS, even as I have paradoxically fallen deeper in love with it. In the many years to come, I can only advise BLS to tone down the pomposity, consider the issues that I've raised, and keep striving forward—because when all's said and done, that's all that students, the good teachers, and administrators can really do.



Shaky Support for Cell Phone Search

ESHE SHIRLEY, III
STAFF WRITER

For the past 375 years, students have gotten in trouble. From writing on desks in the 1800s to eating in class today, we have always taken the hit from teachers and administrators alike. However, as our world becomes more and more technologically advanced, we, as students, have become much smarter at getting away with crimes. And as texting and Facebook become more and more popular, so has flaunting the risks that we take. As we all know, Facebook is public and difficult to hide from parents and school officials. But do these same administrators have the right to search our cell phones without a warrant or permission?

There is only one rule, as found in the Student Handbook, which addresses the issue of searching through our personal things. Under "Lockers," it states that, "the locker is not a student's personal possession. [...] School administrators and other school personnel [...] have the authority to search student lockers, any personal effects found within lockers, and places of concealment within those personal effects." It is important to note that while the student's personal possessions are in the school locker, they are subject to being searched. When we're at school, the normal rules of privacy and

personal property don't always apply. One could say that, by coming to school, you implicitly agree to abide by school rules.

Using the logic of the locker rule, it could be argued that Mr. Flynn was entirely in the right in taking a certain student's cell phone away that led to very serious repercussions. When the phone was taken, it was probably because of some violation of the school's cell phone rules. During that time it was in the possession of the school, and like the possessions inside a school locker, it was allowed to be searched. But for me, this argument is problematic. Is it okay for a school administrator to look through the phone?

It depends. The school administrator does not have the right to look through the phone's contents just because it is in their temporary custody. That is overstepping the bounds of privacy. However, all laws about personal freedoms

have catches. If Mr. Flynn had credible information that the student was doing something against school rules, then



CAN WE DO ANYTHING TO PROTECT OUR PRIVACY?

searching the phone would have been part of a legitimate investigation. Though we have all heard stories about how he is often forced to call in all the kids involved in an incident and hear every side of the story, I am sure hard evidence is preferable.

Even as I say that a school administrator could be in the right in this kind of situation, the way things played out

still feels wrong, probably because in the real world, a warrant would have been involved. If a situation arose where someone (the police, for example) wanted to get the contents from a person's phone, they would have to have evidence pegging the person as a likely suspect, show it to a judge and get a warrant.

In Ohio, the Supreme Court stated that police officers cannot go through obtained cell phones without a warrant. An Ohio man arrested for possession and trafficking of cocaine reasoned that the officers had gotten hold of his phone and looked through all of its content without permission and without a warrant. Is it really just to invade someone's right to privacy and property to gain information? Does the fourth amendment of the Bill of Rights not state that (and we quote directly from the United States Constitution) "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated?"

But sadly for us, "real world" rules do not apply within our school's walls. No matter how our judicial system may change, it will probably be much longer before it begins to infiltrate schools - if it does at all. The bottom line is, if you get caught breaking rules in school, it does not matter how it happened - you're busted either way.

FORUM

Was 2000-2009 A Good Decade?



YES

EHIS OSIFO, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Though we have had our ups and downs this decade, I can honestly say that it has been a pretty good ten years.

The decade started off with the country in turmoil due to the disputed election of President Bush and the al-Qaeda attacks on September 11. Bush subsequently started the war in Iraq, a seemingly pointless war that has brought about the deaths of many innocent people, but Bush still did not completely drive our country into the ground. Although he started the war in Iraq, he also passed the No Child Left Behind Act. This act has improved reading scores more over the past five years than we have seen in the past 28 years. Thirteen-year-old American teenagers currently have the highest math scores ever recorded, and in particular the test scores of Black and Hispanic children have reached an all-time high.

Our country has also seen great strides in foreign policy over the past ten years. At the end of his second term, Bill Clinton became the first sitting president to visit Vietnam. This past summer, he also made progress in our relationship with North Korea, when he visited to ask for the release of two American journalists. His wife, Hillary Clinton, first First Lady and later U.S. Senator, brought the issue of foreign policy to the forefront of the 2008 presidential election.

The 2008 presidential election was monumental not only because a woman ran for President, but also because an African-American candidate ran and *won*. Barack Obama is the first black president of the United States, elected just a few years after Deval Patrick, the first black governor of Massachusetts. Since his election, Obama has done some pretty amazing things. He has made strides for universal healthcare by supporting new legislation that would provide health insurance to more Americans than ever before. He attended the Climate Conference in Copenhagen, taking the first U.S. step toward combating global climate change. In an amazing change, Obama has said that “By August 31, 2010, our combat mission in Iraq will end.” He also won the Nobel Peace Prize, an honor that I think is well-deserved for his aforementioned actions. He has been applauded by countries across the world, and I think it’s safe to say that America is much more popular than it was under Bush.

Not only were there some important changes in the political arena, but there was also a revolution in the music world. In 2001, the iPod took the world by storm, finally making it possible for music aficionados to listen to their music without having to turn on the radio, carry around CDs to play in their Walkman or blast their jams from a boombox (although this hasn’t been a common sight since the ’80s...). The iPod is a device for everyone because one can use it to listen to anything from Buddhist chants to the upbeat tunes of Hannah Montana. It’s become an equalizer of the human race.

This decade also saw the loss of Michael Jackson, a man who revolutionized music in his own right. Although his death was certainly a blow to the music world, this decade has also produced some wonderful artists, such as Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, David Archuleta, Taylor Swift, Adele, Owl City and the much acclaimed Lady Gaga, many of whom rose to fame with the help of an amazing reality TV show, American Idol. Britney Spears has also made a comeback this decade.

We’ve also had our fair share of great movies and TV shows this decade. *The Dark Knight* made waves when it came out in 2008, and the recently released *Avatar* is, as of now, the second highest grossing film in history. *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy gripped America with its high-tech special effects and epic battle scenes, and monumental Disney movies such as *Wall-E* and *Finding Nemo* warmed the hearts of children and adults alike. In television, shows such as *Gilmore Girls*, *24*, *Glee*, *Gossip Girl*, and *House* have entertained millions, and reality shows such as *The Biggest Loser* and *American Idol* have inspired countless Americans to follow their dreams.

We may have had a bumpy start at the beginning, but as Baltasar Gracian once said, “What matters isn’t being applauded when you arrive—for that is common—but being missed when you leave.”

NO

By AURELIA PAQUETTE, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The period between 2000 and 2009 (dubbed “the Aughts” after much debate) was a decade marked by a series of failures and tragedies on both a national and global scale. While Americans were distracted by reality TV, America’s image, the global economy, and the global environment all melted down in a confluence of bad decisions and mistakes.

The Aughts saw the loss of many beloved icons. Michael Jackson, George Harrison, Johnny Cash, Heath Ledger, Ray Charles, George Carlin, Farrah Fawcett, Paul Newman and Nina Simone are just a few of the many stars who have died in the past ten years. We also seem to have lost sight of what it means to be a star, as evidenced by the rise of Paris Hilton, the Kardashians, and Jon and Kate, a couple who rose to fame on the wave of tacky reality shows.

Furthermore, the failed leadership of George W. Bush will forever mark the Aughts as a terrible disappointment. On September 11, 2001, al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners, flying two of them into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and the third into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. The fourth was headed toward Washington, D.C. but crashed before it got there. Unfortunately, George W. Bush defeated Al Gore in the 2000 election (which happened to be the closest election in U.S. history and has left many convinced that he stole the election) and began the War in Afghanistan almost immediately after the attacks. In March of 2003, the Bush Administration further increased our presence in the Middle East by invading Iraq. This decision was based upon their claim that there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, a threat that the Central Intelligence Agency later admitted had never existed. Nevertheless, the United States has troops in Iraq to this day, and Bush was somehow reelected in 2004. In a miserable end to a miserable term, Wall Street crumbled in March of 2008, which marked the beginning of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. The Bush Administration left this and a myriad of other messes for President Obama to deal with, and we are still feeling the effects of his bad policies and uninformed decisions.

But what truly marked the Aughts as one of the worst decades in history was not the horrible leadership of George W. Bush, terrorism, the bad economy, or the rise of reality TV. It was the cumulative effects of humanity’s parasitic existence on the planet. Fishing stocks have collapsed across the globe, and currently only ten percent of big ocean fish remain. To add to the degradation of the oceans, humans are releasing 23 percent more carbon dioxide than they did in 2000. The Aughts were also the hottest decade on record, and the oceans continued to become warmer and more acidic. These changes in habitat pose a tremendous peril to marine life. Humans have also been destroying natural habitats to support an immense global population that has increased by nearly 12 percent in the last decade; an area of tropical forest the size of Florida was razed each year of this decade. In some ways, the planet has retaliated against its human parasites. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami killed nearly 230,000 people. Hurricane Katrina killed over 1,800 in 2005 and was the costliest hurricane in U.S. history. Katrina also highlighted the government’s incompetence in its lukewarm response to people dying for lack of aid. The 2005 Kashmir earthquake killed over 79,000 people. The 2008 Sichuan earthquake killed about 70,000 and left over 18,000 missing. The Aughts, in fact, had the seventh deadliest cyclone in recorded history, the first, second, fourth and ninth deadliest heat waves of all time, the five deadliest earthquakes since 1976, and the deadliest tsunami.

Considering that the Aughts saw the worst environmental crises we have ever faced, some of the deadliest natural disasters in history, the worst president, one of the worst economies in U.S. history, the rise of some of the worst stars and the fall of some of the best, I think it is safe to say that the Aughts were a bad decade. In fact, I would say that the Aughts were, on the whole, tragic.

FORUM

QUESTION

Did you think 2000-2009 a good decade?



“No. It was filled with economic, environmental and international turmoil.”
—Amelia Burke, I



“It was a great decade except for all the bad stuff!”
—Arivu Anukanth, II



“She-Wolf and Obama happened— all you need.”
—Kimberly Gilmore, III



“No, I don't think it was, because of all the natural disasters.”
—David Tran, IV



“I think so. Humanity has advanced in many ways, but we still have a ways to go to solve all our problems.”
—Sofia Inglessis, V



“Yes, because I had a lot of fun!”
—Jocelyn Zabin, VI

FORUM

Appreciate Teachers! New Year, New Self?

By JAKE ZHANG, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“This is BLS, not BLT,” says a respected Boston Latin School teacher. This saying should have meaning to all BLS students, particularly those who take their privileged education for granted. True, we have all worked hard to get into this school, but it is



FAVORITE TEACHER OF LAST YEAR (AS VOTED BY ARGO POLL)

reasonable that we might forget what it means to be a BLS student. Part of that is appreciating our teachers, some of whom have dedicated decades to this school.

It is hard for us students to understand what a BLS master has to put up with every day. Rowdy teenagers and noisy hallways are all part of the job, even for teachers who are not floormasters. Some even get their equipment stolen, as in the unfortunate case in which a teacher had to pay for a laptop that someone had taken (but I am pleased to say that the generosity of the student body raised nearly half of what was owed). Then there are the substitutes, who must endure the havoc created by students that they do not even teach regularly. Some masters are teachers by day and graduate students by night. Some even have second jobs,

often tutoring or teaching night classes. Many also advise after school clubs that significantly benefit the student body.

There has been criticism over the teaching methods of several BLS masters. Some students argue that certain teachers either give too much or too little classwork, and some do not even seem to care about students’ education. I disagree. It is true that different teachers may have various teaching styles; some might prefer classwork over homework or vice versa, or assign tests more frequently than others. But we should remember one thing: it does not get any easier in college, so it is best to be prepared for the impending rigor. Others argue that some teachers are seemingly unqualified for their duties as BLS masters. This is an unfair judgment; it takes years to get a teaching degree (not to mention nearly half of them have degrees from Harvard, Boston University, and other prestigious colleges around the corner from BLS).

There is one teacher in particular has significantly influenced many students at BLS. Although her teaching methods are questionable, there is no doubt that her view on education has redefined the purpose of learning for her students. Never an easy grader, she argues that an A “looks good on the GPA [...] but doesn’t teach the student to do hard work.” In light of this belief, she keeps her students on their toes with frequent quizzes (rewarding opportunities for those who study as opposed to those who don’t). If you are still not satisfied with BLS, then make sure to study (and there are always other less rigorous schools available if you don’t). Meanwhile, I will be eating a BLT.

By KATIE WANG, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We all make at least one New Year’s Resolution—perhaps you just made one. Come December 31, we all have high hopes of bringing about some change to our somewhat dreary lives. Proclamations are feverishly declared. Goals are determinedly set. As you raise your glass to toast a better year, a feeling overwhelms you—some sort of hope that tells you 2010 is going to be your best year yet.

As you rise from your bed the next morning, however, your resolutions no longer carry the same weight as they did the night before. Looks like 2010 will be just like the last.

Almost all Americans will propose some sort of New Year’s resolution every year, whether it be to lose weight, quit smoking or get better grades. Several weeks later, however, how many people will you see still sitting on the sofa or lighting another cigarette?

The year goes by, and we are back to where we started. Perhaps you may have had an occasional burst of willingness for a few weeks, like paying some obligatory visits to the gym. But a week later, as you plop down on the couch with a bag of chips in one hand and a remote in the other, you look down at your bulging stomach and sigh.

What do you do when you make your New Year’s resolution? Do you plan out a schedule? More importantly, do you follow it? Yes, you may try to convince yourself that you will actually improve an aspect of your life in some way, but how many of us will actually see ourselves change? The truth is, most people prefer to delay unpleasant things for the future.

Here at Boston Latin School, this is more commonly known as procrastination. We end up tricking our minds to think that someday we will accomplish what we first set out to do.

The idea of envisioning ourselves doing an action is only satisfying for the time being. We are always trying to find a way to put off our goals. As much as I criticize those who cannot stick to their resolutions, I myself often fall victim to this as well. It is human tendency. We cannot help it.

There is too great of a difference between intent and action. Without action, your resolutions automatically become just intent, an inconsequential wish. And we all know intent will not lead you to improve any aspect of your life. Life is not just about making half-hearted decisions



MANY OF US FIND OURSELVES GOING BACK ON OUR RESOLUTIONS

when in the core of your heart doubt is already forming. Make your resolutions as you guide the course of your life.

So then, you may ask, what is the point of making a New Year’s resolution? There is no significance in making a resolution on that specific date, as the basic importance of the date is obscured by fireworks, confetti and champagne.

If you truly wanted to make a resolution, why not do it today? In fact, why not do it now? Why wait until the clock strikes 12 on the morning of January 1? Real change starts now.

Airport Security Tightens After Bomb Scare

DAVID DENG, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last year on Christmas Day, Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab, 23, smuggled a bomb that was sewn into his underwear onto Flight 253 of Northwest Airlines in an attempt to blow up the plane. The explosives failed to detonate while the plane was landing in Detroit, and instead, created a fire on board. The other passengers quickly apprehended the terrorist.

This terrorist attack on a United States airplane prompted renewed debates in Congress and the Executive branch on the reliability of airport security systems both in the United States and around the world. The failure of the Central Intelligence Agency and other security organizations to prevent this incident is emblematic of the problems of American safety itself. What kind of system do we have? A system that allows a man, identified to United States officials as a potential terrorist threat—by his own father—to board a plane with explosives that could easily have blown up the aircraft? A system that depends on courageous citizens seated nearby to stop terrorists from killing people? If that’s how our security system works, we need a new system.

No one can doubt that the civilian aviation transport system is extremely

vulnerable to attacks by both demented amateurs and coordinated terrorist organizations. Congress is debating a controversial measure to prevent future attacks: “full-body scanners” that would have detected the bomb that was sewn into Abdul Mutallab’s underwear. This solution, however, not only is expensive, but also acts as a virtual “strip-search” that completely violates the passengers’ privacy. In fact, the new mandatory body scans would be a violation of Child Protection Laws because it creates an “indecent” image of a child. Although some people believe that protection always comes first and that they would rather be seen naked than being blown to pieces, others assert that mandatory strip-searching is going way too far.

Though full-body scanners are technologically advanced and are able to see through anything, they are extremely inefficient. Additionally, the scanners would cost the public millions of dollars if they were placed in all the airports in the United States. Also, technology is only as useful as the people who use it—full-body scanners typically reveal no contraband, and a scanner operator might glance over an image, not expecting to find anything,



EXPERIENCING THE REPERCUSSIONS OF ATTEMPTED TERRORIST ATTACK

and miss a concealed bomb.

A more effective way of tackling terrorism and keeping airports and airplanes safe for travel would be to find a solution to the root of the problem. Poverty in poor countries breeds religious fanaticism. A remedy to poverty could stop terrorist growth and ultimately, facilitate airport security. Due to some mistake by the CIA, information concerning a possible attack

perpetrated by Mutallab never reached the hands of higher authorities, who could have prevented the whole thing from happening. Meanwhile, we should research new technologies such as computerized X-ray machines that are not prone to human error rather than a body screener that will fare no better than ordinary X-ray scanners and metal detectors in both cost and efficiency.

A & E

Not Falling for the Situation

By **BARBARA CARVALHO, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Everybody at the Shore definitely knows The Situation. As far as I know, everybody loves The Situation, and if you don’t love The Situation, I’m gonna make you love The Situation.” Well, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, Mike “The Situation” Sorrentino, but not everybody has fallen in love with *this* situation—that is, MTV’s new reality show *Jersey Shore*. Since its premiere in early December, the show has caused much controversy.

Several organizations and institutions, including the New Jersey Italian-American Legislative Caucus, the Order of the Sons of Italy in America, the National Italian-American Foundation, and even the Borough of Seaside Heights, New Jersey, have spoken out against the show. Some companies, such as Domino’s Pizza and Dell, have even pulled their endorsements. None of these groups want to be associated with the violence, drinking, smoking, profanity, or promiscuity portrayed on the show. But at the forefront of the debate are the supposed stereotypical portrayals and “discriminatory remarks” against Italian-Americans.

“Guido” and “guidette,” once used as derogatory terms, are now used by the cast members with pride. According to Paul “Pauly D” DelVecchio, a guido represents “Italians, family, hair gel, and tanning.” Meanwhile, Sammi “Sweetheart” Giancola, defines guidette as “somebody who knows how to club it up, takes really good care of themselves, has pretty hair, cakes on makeup, has tan skin, [and] wears

the highest heels.”

Personally, I am a huge fan of the show and I don’t understand what all the fuss is about. When I tune in every Thursday, do I see an hour filled with the aforementioned activities? Yes. I do not, however, consider the cast members role models. You will not see me walking down the hall donning orange skin, a pompadour, and short-shorts any time soon. But I do count on *Jersey Shore* for my weekly dose of “trash” television, because that’s all that it is. I don’t recall sponsors pulling their endorsements from the various seasons of MTV’s *Real World*, which consists of very similar activities. And regarding the so-called “discriminatory remarks” and stereotypical portrayals, someone needs to remind all of the organizations that took the time to issue public statements against the show that MTV did not decide to air *Jersey Shore* because all of its producers hate Italian-Americans. It’s called *reality* television for a reason—

you can’t write this kind of content. As sad as it may seem, these are real people.

I’m not an Italian-American so I can’t say how offensive the show really is, but Tori Coyne (I) was kind enough

to share her opinion with me: “I am not offended by *Jersey Shore* because I cannot be offended by the truth. Are all Italians guidos? No. Do all Italians act like Snooki and look like Pauly D? No. But is there a legitimate culture of Italian-Americans who dress and speak and live the lifestyle of a stereotypical guido? Yes. I visit Jersey and the Jersey Shore every summer. I have walked the boardwalk and seen JWoww and Ronnie look-a-likes. They talk and act just like them. They aren’t fictional characters.”



YES, THEY REALLY DRESS LIKE THAT

So, regardless of all the controversy and the fact that all I will ever learn from the show is how to be a guidette, my television will be tuned in to *Jersey Shore* every Thursday night. GTL, baby.

Not Your Typical Blue Man Group

By **WILLIAM POFF-WEBSTER, I**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hype is the eternal problem of film-making. The press goes wild, fans froth at the mouth, and the general public responds to this mental equivalent of rabies by following suit. But our blockbusters continually include bad acting, gaping plot holes, and horrible writing. They usually fail to deliver.



LIVING UP TO ITS EXPECTATIONS

Avatar, however, is not one of those movies. *Avatar* lives up to expectations. The hype was there; after all, James Cameron, the director of the first billion-dollar movie (*Titanic*, which grossed \$1.8 billion), had reportedly spent 12 years and \$300 million making *Avatar*. But from the beginning of *Avatar* to its end, nearly three hours later, Cameron demonstrates his mastery of film-making.

Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) is a paraplegic marine living in the 22nd century. He is recruited to take the position vacated by his dead brother in an expedition on Pandora, a moon in a distant

solar system. As Jake departs for a space station, we are shown the first stunning sights of the movie: a view of the Earth-like Pandora, with continents and seas, from space.

So begins the epic cinematography of *Avatar*. “Epic” is a lame fanboy word to use, but it is the only one that describes the vast vistas of jungle, ambient hues of an alien horizon, and absurdly lifelike flora and fauna. The fact that Cameron

leap of logic—technology that allows a human to lie in suspended animation while controlling a specialized body of a Na’vi, called an ‘Avatar’—does not seem so outlandish. Immersion is the only way to introduce a 2010 audience to a 2150 environment.

Though I don’t want to give away the plot, it has some parallels with a movie beginning with ‘P’ and ending in ‘ocean-hontas.’ It’s not that lame, I promise. As someone who makes a hobby out of being cynical about movie plots and J.K. Rowling logic, I can say it was actually pretty decent.

If I had one criticism, it would be that some of the characters are one-dimensional. Colonel Quaritch, the titular ‘bad guy,’ was described by the actor who played him (Stephen Lang) as “just a man doing his job”—but that does not mesh with the evil monstrosity that he shows in the movie. Similarly, several side characters appear from time to time with little explanation other than a name given in the beginning.

Overall, *Avatar* is a really good movie. It makes you wonder what we’re doing to our own world, and what we’ve already lost. It makes you draw parallels (fun drinking game: take a shot...of orange juice, of course... every time you hear Colonel Quaritch say a line that sounds like it could come out of the mouth of George W. Bush). It may be corny, but it provokes rumination instead of ridicule. In fact, judging by the epidemic of Facebook statuses, *Avatar* has the real danger of making you doubt your humdrum existence of 9:44, 10:33, 11:22... and wish you lived among the Na’vi. This is *Star Wars*; this is *The Matrix*; this is *Lord of the Rings*. Just see it.

Spotlight

Tien Tran



By **ELLE BRIGIDA, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Although I don’t remember the exact moment we met, the day that I became Tien Tran’s best friend changed my life forever. Everyone knows Tien, which is a fact that he loves to brag about, and as much as I would like to disagree, I cannot deny that statement. Whether he has tried to force them to sing a duet with him or has given them a friendly smile in the hallway, the general population remembers Tien because he does not confine himself to one group of friends. Tien befriends all types of people, regardless of age, race or gender, and he is an extremely friendly person who loves to bond with others. Since I have the privilege of being his close friend, I know that Tien is an extremely loyal person—he has come to define the phrase “all that matters is that we’re together.” He is a true friend who will never leave you.

Tien is a member of Chamber Choir, Show Choir and most proudly the Wolftones. He has been a member of the Wolftones since freshman year, and his “Come Together” solo has earned him school-wide popularity. As a devoted member of the Wolftones, Tien is always happy to engage in a friendly debate over the popularity of the Wolftones versus the Wolfettes (a battle which he always loses, of course). He’s also an integral part of Show Choir, where he always adds his own unique flavor to his dance moves. Last year, Tien and I were in a play in Foxboro. We took many joyous car rides together—the rides were long, but I didn’t notice because Tien had filled our trips with his singing. He also loves to share his singing and dancing with others, teaching everyone how to “jerk” — if they are willing to make a fool out of themselves. And anyone who has sat behind him in class would be familiar with his rendition of Sweeny Todd’s “Joanna.”

Tien and I recently completed our lifelong goal of placing in the A.S.I.A. Sing-off, winning third place and the prize of a TGI Friday’s gift card. Because of his vocal talent, some people aren’t even aware that Tien is the worst accent-imitator, especially with his “amazing” pronunciation of “I Cold” — he sounds like an Italian-Hungarian-Japanese Borat. “Tuba Tien,” as my mother lovingly calls him, is the also second best Tuba player in Senior Band. And let’s face it, “Flautist Tien” just doesn’t have a ring to it.

It’s hard to imagine what my high school years would have been like without Tien’s support and laughter. Without him, I would have never had a duet partner to sing High School Musical with (what a sad life that would be!). I know that Tien will continue to make friends wherever he goes in the future, and I hope that someday my children will love their “Uncle Tien” as much as I do.

Spotlight

Jelyn Masa



By **ROSELLE MANGILOG, I**
& **FRANCIS MASA, IV**
COPY EDIT ASSISTANT AND CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you have heard the sounds of a ukulele strumming in the air, you may have heard the voice accompanying them. Interestingly enough, the ukulele is the perfect fit for Jelyn Masa. Standing at 4’10”, her life goal is to reach five feet. However, her small size is no indication of her ability to sing like a pro. If you’ve ever heard her sing, you’ve probably thought, “How can someone so small have such a big voice?” That, our friend, is one of the great mysteries of life. We’ve both known her since birth, and have always associated Jelyn with a microphone. Ever since her chubby baby fingers wrapped around a Magic Mic, we knew she was going places.

Singing has been a constant in her Boston Latin School life. If you want to hang out with her after school, good luck. She either has Chamber Choir, Show Choir, Wolfettes or voice lessons. But all that practicing pays off; she can fill a room with the sound of her voice effortlessly. Many of you may have been pleasantly serenaded by her at some point. She’s amazing, we know. If you are unfortunate to have NEVER heard her, there are plenty of videos floating around.

Where does she get her inspiration? What is her taste in music? Ignoring the radio, she searches for acoustic covers, underground hip-hop and R&B. Youtube stars, such as Gabe Bondoc, Nujabes, and her idol, Melissa Polinar, dominate her playlists. One word to describe her iPod : chill.

Jelyn’s talents don’t stop at singing. Give her motivation and she can do anything! She has many hobbies and talents: she’s a master at the Etch-and-Sketch and Rubik’s cubes, she’s self-taught on the guitar and ukulele, and she has a background in tap, ballet, jazz and Filipino cultural dances. Honestly, what CAN’T this girl do?

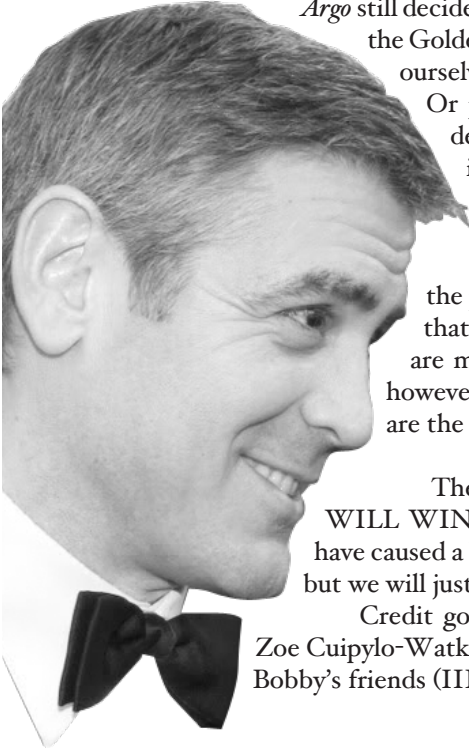
Her heart is just as big as her lungs. She will do anything for someone in need, no matter how odd it seems. Once, while we were eating dinner, I asked for some sauce. She responded by taking off her socks and handing them over with a cheery smile. I realized that she had misinterpreted the word “sauce” for “socks.” She may not be the best at hearing, but always helping me out is what she does best! It doesn’t matter if you call her “Juh-leen,” “Jay-lin,” or “Funsize,” she’ll stand by your side with a smile.

As senior year closes, we will soon go on different paths and the music department will lose one of its most incredible voices. Even though owls don’t sing, she’ll be a proudly singing Owlette at Bryn Mawr come September. We both wish her the best of luck as she faces a whole new world, and gains a new fantastic point of view. There’s no one to tell her no, or where to go, or say she’s only dreaming. And Jelyn, we’ll have a pair of socks waiting for you when you come back for vacations.

A & E

Golden Globes Predictions

NOTE: Unfortunately, because of scheduling conflicts, you might have noticed that the *Argo* has been printed two days after the 67th Golden Globes. (Or, if worse scheduling conflicts arise, make that three.) The A&E staff here, however, at the *Argo* still decided to steamroll along with our predictions for the major categories of the Golden Globes. Why, you might ask? Well, perhaps we wanted to test ourselves and our Divination skills (thanks, Professor Trelawney). Or perhaps Mr. Flynn transformed into Nostradamus and decided to give us all the answers so that we could publish it to the masses. Who knows?



Anyway, here is our list. We will see just how accurate it is the day you get these papers hot off the press. If we are horribly wrong, we would like to say that we are terribly sorry and want you to know that we are much better than this. If we are incredibly correct, however, we would like to say that we knew it all along and are the best editors in the world.

The system you will see below is in a SHOULD WIN/ WILL WIN fashion, with reasons in some categories that might have caused a bit of a dispute (see Best TV series, comedy or musical), but we will just have to wait and see.

Credit goes to the A&E Editors; the Editorial Board Associates; Zoe Cuipyllo-Watkins (II), Kaela Feliz (II), and Miles Grover (II); and two of Bobby’s friends (III).



Best Director: Motion Picture

Nominees: Bigelow - The Hurt Locker, Cameron - Avatar, Eastwood - Invictus, Reitman - Up in the Air, Quentin - Inglourious Basterds

Should Win: Clint Eastwood

Will Win: James Cameron

Why: Clint Eastwood: pure awesomeness; you cannot go wrong with Clint Eastwood; James Cameron: for his reputation, dedication, and for revolutionizing 3-D animation.

Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture

Nominees: Penelope Cruz - Nine, Vera Farmiga - Up in the Air, Anna Kendrick - Up in the Air, Mo’Nique - Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire, Julianne Moore - A Single Man

Should Win: Anna Kendrick - Up in the Air

Will Win: Mo’Nique - Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire

Why: Mo’Nique: because it’s the only time she could win anything.

Best Actor in a Motion Picture: Comedy

Nominees: Matt Damon - The Informant, Daniel Day-Lewis - Sherlock Holmes, Robert Downey Jr. - Sherlock Holmes, Joseph Gordon-Levitt - 500 Days of Summer, Michael Stuhlbarg - A Serious Man

Should Win: Matt Damon - The Informant

Will Win: Daniel Day-Lewis - Sherlock Holmes

Why: Matt Damon: it was a really tough role and he managed to do it without being offensive; Daniel Day-Lewis: because he’s Daniel Day-Lewis.

Best Actress in a Television Series: Drama

Nominees: Julianna Margulies - The Good Wife, Glenn Close - Damages, January Jones- Mad Men, Anna Paquin - True Blood, Kyra Sedgwick - The Closer

Should Win: January Jones - Mad Men

Will Win: Anna Paquin - True Blood

Best Actor in a Television Series: Drama

Nominees: Simon Baker - The Mentalist, Michael C. Hall - Dexter, Jon Hamm - Mad Men, Hugh Laurie- House, Bill Paxton - Big Love

Should Win: Hugh Laurie - House

Will Win: Jon Hamm - Mad Men

Best Screenplay: Motion Picture

Nominees: The Hurt Locker, District 9, Inglourious Basterds, It’s Complicated, Up in the Air

Should Win: Inglorious Basterds

Will Win: Inglorious Basterds

Best Television Series: Drama

Nominees: Big Love, Dexter, House, Mad Men, True Blood

Should Win: Dexter

Will Win: Mad Men

Best Motion Picture: Comedy or Musical

Nominees: 500 Days of Summer, The Hangover, It’s Complicated, Julie & Julia, Nine

Should Win: Julie & Julia

Will Win: The Hangover

Why: Julie & Julia: supreme acting, MERYL STREEP (a better Julia Child than Julia Child); The Hangover: big comedy names, genuinely funny, MIKE TYSON.

Best Actress in a Motion Picture: Drama

Nominees: Emily Blunt - The Young Victoria, Sandra Bullock - The Blind Side, Helen Mirren - The Last Station, Carey Mulligan - An Education, Gabourey Sidibe - Precious: Based

on the Novel Push by Sapphire

Should Win: Carey Mulligan - An Education

Will Win: Helen Mirren - The Last Station

Why: Carey Mulligan: the perfect innocent schoolgirl; Helen Mirren: amazing.

Best Motion Picture: Drama

Nominees: Avatar, The Hurt Locker, Inglourious Basterds, Precious, Up In the Air

Should Win: Inglourious Basterds

Will Win: Avatar

Why: Inglourious Basterds, for its solid plot line and great acting; Avatar, for the hype and the direction of James Cameron (good visually, but Dances with Wolves repeat).

Best Actor in a Motion Picture: Drama

Nominees: Jeff Bridges - Crazy Heart, George Clooney - Up in the Air, Colin Firth - A Single Man, Morgan Freeman - Invictus, Tobey Maguire - Brothers

Should Win: Jeff Bridges - Crazy Heart

Will Win: Morgan Freeman - Invictus

Best Actress in a Motion Picture: Comedy

Nominees: Sandra Bullock - The Proposal, Marion Cotillard - Nine, Julia Roberts - Duplicity, Meryl Streep - Julie & Julia, Meryl Streep - It’s Complicated

Should Win: Meryl Streep - Julie & Julia

Will Win: Meryl Streep - Julie & Julia

Best Actor in a Television Series: Comedy or Musical

Nominees: Alec Baldwin - 30 Rock, Steve Carell - The Office, Thomas Jane - Hung, David Duchovny - Californication, Matthew Morrison - Glee

Should Win: Alec Baldwin - 30 Rock

Will Win: Matthew Morrison - Glee

Best Television Series: Comedy or Musical

Nominees: 30 Rock, Entourage, Glee, Modern Family, The Office

Should Win: Modern Family/Glee

Will Win: 30 Rock

Best Actress in a Television Series: Comedy or Musical

Nominees: Toni Collete- United State of Tara, Courtney Cox - Cougar Town, Tina Fey - 30 Rock, Edie Falco - Nurse Jackie, Lea Michele - Glee

Should Win: Toni Collette - United State of Tara

Will Win: Tina Fey - 30 Rock

Why: Toni Collette: she was awesome, and people are sick of Tiny Fey; Tina Fey: she’s won for the past two years; she’s on a role. (So punny.)

Best Animated Feature Film

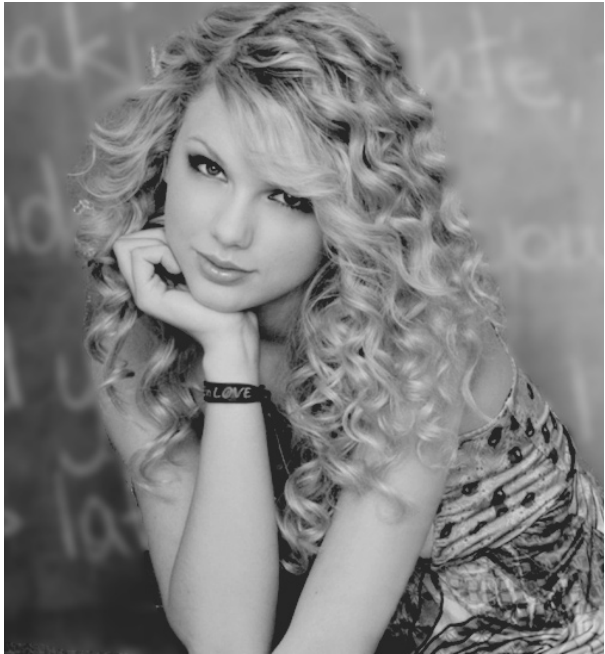
Nominees: Coraline, Fantastic Mr. Fox, Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, The Princess and the Frog, Up

Should Win: Up

Will Win: Up

A & E

Who Dominated 2009 in Entertainment?



Taylor Swift

By PAUL GELS, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Taylor Swift is everyone’s favorite country-pop singer, and 2009 was definitely Swift’s year. Whether it was going out with the werewolf, enduring the “Kanye West” incident, or hosting SNL, she definitely had her hands full.

When Taylor Lautner and Taylor Swift started dating, I, and everyone across the United States, flipped out. After all, if they ever got married, they would both be Taylor Lautner. Even though their relationship is now over, their romance was one of the most talked about points in Hollywood this year. And I’m sure we can expect a song about the breakup, like the one we got after Tay-Joe ended.

However, something even bigger than that relationship happened last year for Swift. At the recent MTV Video Music Awards, Taylor Swift won the award for Best Female Video. Nevertheless, Kanye West thought it would be great if he went up on stage and told the entire nation that Beyonce’s video was better. More important than this interruption, really, was the response: the story was widespread, and Taylor Swift got plenty of sympathy and attention. Even President Barack Obama called Kanye West a “jackass.” And did anyone see Taylor Swift on SNL? Not only can this girl sing, but she is a talented and hilarious actress. Watch out for her in *Valentine’s Day*, where she acts opposite Taylor Lautner. I just hope there won’t be any awkward tension at the premiere, Taylors...

Note that none of what I have just written has to do with her music, which truly shows just how many different things Taylor Swift has done in 2009. Swift doesn’t have to make a dress out of Kermit the Frogs or have fire shooting out of her bra in music videos to have our attention. Swift just does what she does, and she does it well. For example, she set the record for being the most successful female artist on the Billboard Hot 100 list, with eight hit songs. Her album, *Fearless*, which was released in both 2008, and then re-released in 2009, became THE top-selling album of the year. Sorry Gaga, but you’re going to need to step up your game. Another fun fact? “You Belong With Me” was the most streamed song on the Internet in 2009.

Swift has also made country music “cool.” If asked a few years ago what kind of music I liked, I would have said, “Well, I pretty much like everything except country music.” Now, I say, “Well, I pretty much like everything, *especially* country music.” I have also noticed that many others feel the same way. One of the reasons why people just can’t pull the earplugs out when a Taylor Swift song comes on their iPods is that her songs sum up their lives perfectly. Many people have gone through a bad breakup in a romance that they thought would last “Forever and Always”. And really, who hasn’t wanted to just burst out singing “You Belong With Me” in front of their crush?

Sorry again, Gaga, but not many people can relate to songs about the “Paparazzi” or wanting someone’s “ugly” or their “disease.” I love Lady Gaga’s outfits, but sometimes I feel like she’s “had a little bit too much” before picking them out. Taylor Swift, on the other hand, may not be known as a fashion icon, but the girl still knows how to look good without looking like she came out of an insane asylum.

There’s no doubt that Taylor Swift ruled the entertainment world in 2009. And I have a feeling she’ll be in power for a very long time.



Lady Gaga

By PATRICK ELVIN, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Stephanie Joanne Germanotta was born on March 28, 1986, but it was not until 2005 that Lady Gaga was born. Inspired by the Queen song, “Radio Ga Ga,” Lady Gaga began her musical career by performing in clubs all around New York with virtually no supporters. Everything, however, changed on October 28, 2008, when her first album, *The Fame*, was released and started an empire.

Whether you are 16 or 87, you must have taken a second during 2009 to process the craziness that is Lady Gaga. In one year, Lady Gaga reintroduced pop music to the world with her chart-busting songs, including “Poker Face,” “Just Dance,” “Paparazzi” and “LoveGame,” along with her newest hit, “Bad Romance.” She started off as a small girl with a big voice in the midst of the bustling New York City, and now she has the most recognizable voice in the world.

When it comes to taking risks in both fashion and performance, 2009 was Lady Gaga’s year. One day she had long, straightened blonde hair, and the next, she was sporting a pink curly ‘do. She is undoubtedly a fashion inspiration—at one point or another, I may have even considered wearing pounds of eyeliner and a bow tie made out of hair. The legendary lightning bolt that she used to don on her face on a daily basis was especially distinguishing, and although she seems to have given that up, there are many fans hoping for its comeback. In the beginning of 2009, Lady Gaga said, “And now I’m just trying to change the world, one sequin at a time,” showing us just a glimpse of what she stands for: beauty, freedom and individuality.

Another great thing about Lady Gaga is her versatility. She is always finding new and creative ways to express herself, and 2009 was no exception. From squirting fake blood all over a white lace outfit to setting a piano on fire, Lady Gaga dominated 2009. Lady Gaga is also a perfect example of someone who puts her talents to work: she lives for fame, strives to honor the wonderful performers who came before her, and is virtually unstoppable. At the same time, though, she still has her priorities in check. Beginning her career as a regular performer at gay clubs, she has remained loyal to her gay fans, advocating gay rights and even speaking at the 2009 Equality March.

But when I turn on my television and remember 2009, I will think of the girl who gave Kermit the Frog a new meaning, put the glamour back in the music industry and redefined what’s acceptable to wear in public. 2009 goes to the lady with the green eyes who lived to have fun and “Just Dance,” was “Beautiful, Dirty and Rich” all at the same time, only wanted “Fame” and “Boys, Boys, Boys” and is not afraid of a “Bad Romance.”

Having seen her myself on the first of December during her 2009-10 Monster Ball Tour, I can assure you that what you see is what you get. She is unique, gorgeous, wild, extremely intelligent and even a little bit crazy. Taylor Swift has spent her career describing what fearless is, but Lady Gaga *shows* us how to be “Fearless.” Taylor Swift is a fantastic performer with an amazing singing voice, but in a battle of who was the better blonde this year, Lady Gaga takes the cake. Thank You Lady Gaga, you continue to inspire. There’s “Nothing Else I Can Say.”

A&E Question

Who dominated 2009 in entertainment: Taylor Swift or Lady Gaga?



“Hell yeah, Lady Gaga. She gained so many fans ‘cause she’s so unique and her music’s so entertaining.”
— Chris Nguyen, I



“Lady Gaga. Her use of McQueenadillos, pyrotechnic breasts, and cultural references is incredible.”
— Michaela Bosch, II



“Lady Gaga was flashier, caught more attention than Taylor. Plus, she’s crazier.”
— Radhelki Reyes, III



“Though Taylor’s been consistently popular this year, I say Lady Gaga because she’s new and got big this year.”
— Madeleine Grover, IV

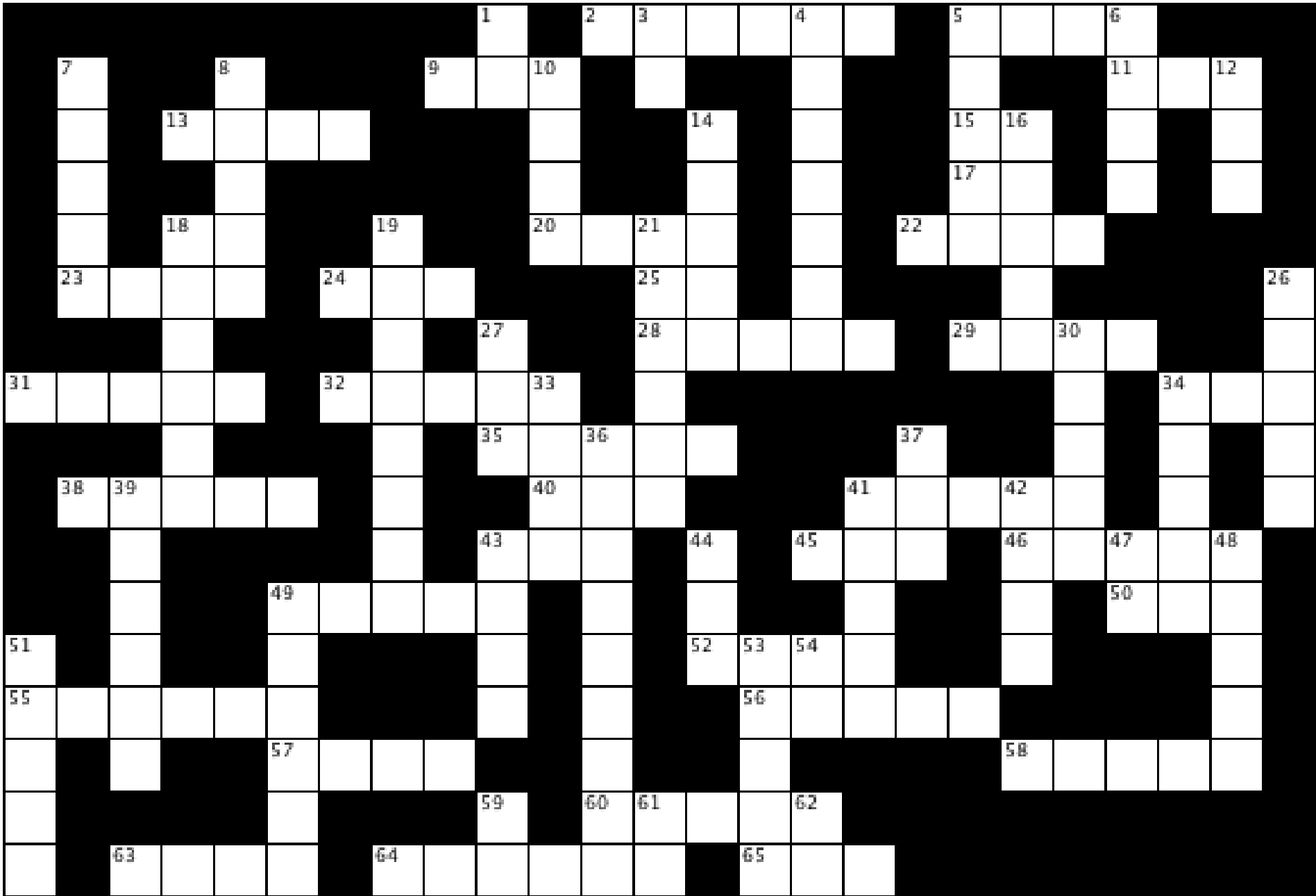


“Lady Gaga, definitely. Taylor Swift only got popular after the Kanye thing.”
— Greg Teig von Hoffman, V



“I think Lady Gaga because she’s a singer AND a performer. Plus, she uses more styles than just country.”
— Anna Schuliger, VI

FUN PAGE



Across

2. Jason’s golden accessory
5. World’s tallest building: ____ Dubai
9. Recently deceased comedian: Bernie ____
11. 1st wedding requirement: something ____
13. Quinn Fabray’s baby daddy
15. 2009 Pixar film
17. Currently incarcerated rapper; ____ 83 calculator
18. US colony founded by Roger Williams (abbrev.)
20. 2009 Jay Sean single
22. Wonderful *Argo* layout master
23. Portland liberal arts college; Saxo-
phone accessory
24. A cloud in contact with the ground
25. Backstreet Boys member: ____ McLean
28. ____ square/ ____ New Roman
29. English city; shower alternative
31. Blue Mighty Morphin Power Ranger: ____ Cranston
32. Chinese Disney character
34. Recycling container

35. Arrested Development lead: ____ Bateman
38. Malcolm in the Middle actor: ____ Cranston
40. German preposition: of, from
41. Indigenous people of New Zealand
43. One of three Charlie’s Angels ac-
tresses
45. Pen brand
46. Constellation known as “The Hunt-
er”
49. ____ and Barrel
50. French street
52. Biggest selling pop artist of 2009
55. Dried grape; A ____ in the Sun
56. Native Chinese bear
57. A volume forming a part of a larger
work; an old book
58. Senior Massachusetts Senator
60. Spanish street
63. Jane Austen novel
64. Jersey Shore cast member popularized
by “The Poof”
65. Environmental government agency

Down

1. A horse, in Chinese
3. A vinyl record
4. A British bathing suit
5. Et tu, ____?
6. One of four *Joy Luck Club* families
7. Legendary, obnoxious ‘09 alum: ____ Cranston
8. Roman god of love, in naked baby
form
10. Integration of males and females in
schooling
12. Roman leader
14. Chinese characters used in Japanese
alphabet
16. A Dutch peanut
18. 2009 Iyaz single
19. Current Real World location: District
of ____
21. Highest earning actress of the de-
cade
26. Popular Japanese children’s show
27. British rule in India
30. Of them
33. Indigenous people of Pandora
34. A French kiss

36. The tallest of the Icki’s (but not
quite)
37. Makeup brand; computer brand
39. Rapidly breeding mammal
41. One of the fashion capitals of the
world
42. Spanish clothing
43. (Not-so) popular talk show host on
NBC (for now)
44. Gerund ending; Dutch insurance
company
47. 77th element
48. AP European History teacher
49. Vampire Weekend album
51. Cobra-like Pokemon
53. Keeps the doctor away
54. US colony founded as a buffer against
Spain (abbrev.)
59. One of Zeus’ lovers, who turned into
a heifer
61. #1 TV show in Nielsen ratings (ab-
brv.)
62. A CD longer than a single, but shorter
than an album

Sudokus

Easy

6		5	7	2			3	9
4					5	1		
	2		1					4
	9			3		7		6
1			8		9			5
2		4		5			8	
8					3		2	
		2	9					1
3	5			6	7	4		8

Diabolical

3			2					
				3	7	9		
	8				9		3	
		5				8		6
2			3		6			5
4		8				7		
	1		7				8	
		6	4	9				
					5			1

SPORTS

Pinning the Competition

BY ALEX WILLIAMS, I
STAFF WRITER

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten! Ding, ding, ding! Many people hope to be on the winning side of this situation, not face down on the mat. This anxiety, however, was not a problem for the boys on the Boston Latin School Wrestling Team this past Saturday at Weston High School. Led by Captain Samuel Tavares (I), who can often be heard yelling orders during “stairs” workouts in the 031 hallway, the team has seen great success in their most recent matches.

After losing some valued wrestlers from the class of 2009, the team has had a rocky start. The injuries of fourth-year wrestler Brendan Downes (I), eighth-year wrestler Nick Carter (I) and experienced wrestler Jamie Banks (I), also had a large impact on the team. Newcomers Brendan Diety (II) and Joey McCourt (II) stepped

up to the plate, however, leading to a smooth transition to success. McCourt was even able to place fourth in a varsity tournament. Banks praises McCourt’s effort, saying, “In my first year I didn’t even score a point, and I’m considered good. This guy is really going to go places.”

In the 2009-10 season, there has been a variety of wrestlers ranging from freshmen to seniors. There are the returning veterans, including Ezana Girma (II), Olajide Ogundipe (I), Glennon Montgomery (I), Zachary Schwartz (I) and Tavares, and a substantial number of new sophomores. The younger wrestlers have seen much success. According to Montgomery, “The wins we’ve had against Quincy, Cambridge Rindge and Latin, and Weston are good for the team, especially when the younger wrestlers are picking up wins. Some of them have great potential but lose because they are young and inexperienced. It is good for them to win so that they

don’t get too discouraged.”

With all the injuries and mishaps, the team agrees that a lot of credit goes to their coach, Jeffrey Gibbons. The wrestlers see him as a special coach who can work with any obstacles that he faces. When reviewing his last season of wrestling, Ogundipe states, “This is the last season of my career, and it all started when Coach Gibbons saw potential in a 90-pound eighth grader trying to get stronger in the weight room. Now that I have become a senior, it is time to fulfill my true potential and become one of the best wrestlers in the state.” Other seniors, such as Raffi Yessayan (I) and Tavares, claim that this is one of their best seasons and hope to move onto state titles, much like Ogundipe. Overall, the wrestlers are looking forward to learning from their experiences on the mat and using these experiences to improve the team’s performance throughout the rest of the season.

MLB Hot Stove Report

RICARDO A. SANCHEZ, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The end of the World Series marked the beginning of the offseason, during which teams across Major League Baseball prepare for the upcoming season. There was an entire market full of players ready to be signed or traded. Though there was not much star power in the free agent market this offseason, there were, in fact, a few players worth mentioning. These included outfielders Jason Bay and Matt Holliday, infielder Chone Figgins and pitcher John Lackey. There were also rumors of possible trades, such as deals for former Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Roy Halladay and San Diego Padres first baseman Adrian Gonzalez. There was much bidding to be done and the MLB “Hot Stove” started to heat up.

It is now January, and much has happened since the end of the World Series. Early on in the offseason, the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim quickly re-signed outfielder Bobby Abreu after a solid season of 15 home runs and 103 RBIs to a two-year contract with a club

option for 2010. The Angels went on to sign outfielder and 2009 World Series MVP Hideki Matsui to a one-year deal, a move made to replace aging outfielder Vladimir Guerrero. Though the Angels seemed to be bolstering their lineup, they did lose two players who were vital to their playoff runs in recent years. First, they lost speedy third baseman Chone Figgins when he signed a four-year deal with their division-rival, the Seattle Mariners. Then the Angels lost their ace starting pitcher, John Lackey, to the Boston Red Sox. Lackey signed a five-year deal with Boston worth \$82.5 million and was considered the best free agent pitcher on the market. Later on, Boston also signed outfielder Mike Cameron to a two-year deal.

In what was somewhat considered a blockbuster move, the New York Yankees acquired outfielder Curtis Granderson from the Detroit Tigers as part of a three-team deal involving the Arizona Diamondbacks. A few days later, highly-coveted starting pitcher Roy Halladay was finally traded to the Philadelphia Phillies as part of a deal that sent starting pitcher Cliff Lee from Philadelphia to Seattle and

prospects to Toronto. Halladay, the long-time ace of the Blue Jays’ pitching staff had been heavily pursued by teams such as the Yankees and the Red Sox.

Two of the biggest stories of the offseason were those involving outfielders Bay and Holliday. Both were coming off impressive seasons with the Red Sox and St. Louis Cardinals, respectively. The Red Sox had offered Bay multiple contracts (all of which he turned down), but it seemed as if his time with the Red Sox was over after Boston’s signing of Cameron weeks earlier. After months of intense bidding, the New York Mets finally won the Bay sweepstakes, signing the 31-year-old to a four-year deal worth \$66 million. As for Holliday, it seemed as though he would sign with a team in New York, but after months of negotiating, he ultimately decided to stay where he was, signing a lucrative seven-year, \$120-million deal to remain in St. Louis.

After the signings of Bay and Holliday, there were not many players of ...

MLB HOT STOVE REPORT
Continued on page 14

WITNESS

builder, Roberts often fell short in her players’ eyes.

This year, Mr. B. and Coach O. have brought a new vigor and energy that have fueled the girls to come out of the gate stronger than ever before. Center Emily Berardi (II) notices that, “there’s obviously a new chemistry and energy this season.” Forward Jackie McDonagh (II) says, “We’ve been working a lot harder this year.” McDonagh adds about the work ethic, “It’s been paying off.” Forward Megan Duckworth (II) sums it up best: “We’ve really come together like never before with great new coaching, and we’ve been having a lot of fun.”

This hard work and vitality has translated onto the court. “We play really aggressive,” Mr. B. says, “We press hard, try to run as much as possible, and play with a lot of heart.” He credits this willpower as the reason for their success, regardless of the girls’ natural talents – and talent is in no short supply for the team.

I have personally always wondered why it has taken so long for the girls’ team to reach this point. The team has always consisted of good players, and that pattern continues this year. The leadership and team chemistry stem from the

captains: Michelle Ventura (I), Jillian Galofaro (I), Molly Ryan (I), and Bridget Quinn (I). Playing time is spread around pretty evenly. “There are like only three people who haven’t started yet,” says sharp-shooting guard Jonlyn Englert (II). “We don’t really have a best player.”

From seeing the girls last year, I can say that Englert’s statement is true. She is a fundamentally perfect shooter, who plays both guard positions. Ventura can also alternate between a scorer and a playmaker: “She doesn’t need to score to make things happen,” Duckworth notes. Galofaro and McDonagh are both aggressive slashers, and Berardi anchors the team with a strong post presence.

The pieces of a state tournament caliber team have always been there for the Wolfpack, but until this year, they have failed to come together. This year has already proved to be different, with increased vigor, determination, heart, and energy that most girls attribute to the change in coaches. Already at 3-5, the girls could very easily go .500 and earn a spot in the state tournament. After that, we’ll see, but with a team full of promising juniors and even sophomores, such as continually improving forward Laura Sullivan (III), the future looks bright.

Spotlight Siobhan Elvin



BY SAMANTHA PRINCE, I
& BRIDGETTE NEE, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Siobhan Bernadette Jordon Elvin is a legend. There is no way you wouldn’t know her. You may have seen her at school conversing in fluent Spanish with Señora Williams, smuggling ice coffee out of the dining hall, or dapping up Officer Manny between classes. Outside of school, Sio can be spotted cruising down the mean streets of West Roxbury in her whip, the Dark Night, windows down, music up, and stunner shades on. She can also be found assuming her role as #1 Cashier at Roche Bros., where she knows the barcode of every item in stock (a banana, in case you are wondering, is item #4011). It was at the Murphy Rink in Southie, however, where we both had the pleasure of meeting this wild child.

Siobhan has been the BLS’ Girls’ Varsity Hockey starting goalie since she joined the team as a sixie. For someone who demonstrates her extreme athletic ability everyday on the ice, it’s hard to believe that she once had to be rescued by firemen after getting stuck in a McDonald’s highchair at the age of 13. All silliness aside, Sio’s skills in the net have been a big asset to the hockey team’s success in the past several years, and she continues to stand on her head to make big saves game after game. She loves all team bonding activities, and her positive attitude helps to keep the team in good spirits. Sio has also been the varsity centerfielder for the Girls’ Softball Team since freshman year. Her talent in the outfield proves that her stellar defensive skills extends off the ice as well, while her tendency to lose focus and write obscenities in the mud shows that she still knows how to have a good time.

In addition to sports, Siobhan has a variety of other interests. She is a fan of all things multicultural, including Chinese New Year, the Spanish language, and European boys. The latter have often fallen prey to Sio while she rocks her signature leather jacket and lucky pants. While it may be her good looks that the fine lads are initially drawn to, her sense of humor, charm, and cheekiness are what keeps them coming back for more. Although 2010’s “Life of the Party” will unfortunately not be traveling to Baha this spring (since she was on the “naughty list,” like Mr. Bal), she plans on living it up in her hometown Galway, Ireland for the summer.

Sio has big plans for herself. After shaking things up on the Jersey Shore this summer with her “hot entourage,” the NBA, she hopes to attend the University of Toronto next fall. She plans on majoring in criminology and one day joining the FBI. As the Cops and Robbers champion of Gilmore Terrace in the 1990s, this profession is a natural fit for her. She dreams of one day catching Whitey Bulger with the same grace, ferocity, and sexiness that her idol Angelina Jolie displays in *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*.

Above all her interests and activities however, Siobhan’s number one passion is her friends; we consider ourselves lucky to be counted among them.

DUUUUUUUUDE.

BY DEVIN KIRBY, II
STAFF WRITER

It seems like I’m going to follow Kevin Bernazzani around this year and write articles on every sport he coaches. Golf was fun to write about, but it’s nice to report that Coach B. finally has some wins under his belt.

First-year Girls’ Varsity coach Kerri Orellana, whom Mr. B. has helped as an assistant this season, has also been successful. Off to a 3-5 start after several lackluster seasons, the girls already have one of their best records in recent years. Though they have lost some good players, such as last year’s star, Kay Smith, the team hasn’t gone through many dramatic changes to their roster. What have changed, however, are the coaches: Coach O. and Mr. B. on the Varsity level, and Erica Wenz, coaching Junior Varsity.

Coach Roberts, the former varsity coach, was a terrific player in her prime. Enshrined as one of Boston Latin School’s best varsity players, Roberts even played on a professional level. She knew the ups and downs of girls’ basketball better than anyone else in the history of the school. However, as a motivator and morale-

Kings of the Rink

Confident on the Ice

By NOEL HAINES, I
STAFF WRITER

After last season’s disappointing result when the 2008-2009 Boston Latin School Boys’ Varsity Hockey team missed out on the state tournament with a loss in its final game, the 2009-2010 team entered the season seeking better results. In order to achieve this goal, the team has welcomed ten new players to fill the spots vacated by graduated seniors. Experienced veterans such as the team’s six returning seniors, including Captain Justin Evangelista (I), have also helped through their leadership and by setting good examples. So far, the strategy of combining the new and the experienced has paid off. The 5-3-1 team now has sophomore leading scorers as well as a new goalie, Gabe Diop (II), whose reliability and dependable play prompt praise from Evangelista, who stated, “[He] had never started a varsity game before, but he’s been ‘standing on his head’ for the first month of the season and we hope he can keep it up.” Diop is replacing Jesse O’Neil (I), who suffered a fractured fibula and tibia before the season even began.

The team practices at Boston University focus on defense and transition scoring. This effort has helped the team use both speed and aggressive play to get on the scoreboard early and build quick leads, outscoring its opponents 29-3 in the first two periods through the first eight games. However, holding onto that lead is difficult to maintain. Captain Conal Lynch (III) states, “A very significant obstacle that we have faced is not playing tough in the 3rd period and blowing some games.”

A potential turning point was the team’s January 4th match against Plymouth North High School where

Latin edged its opponent 1-0, with the only goal of the game coming from Kevin Cotrone (III) late in the first period. Referring to the importance of the achievement, Lynch says, “We had lost to them in a significant game last year, but we were able to grind out a 1-0 win, playing solid defense all game.” That victory was then followed by another win at Newton South High School, when the team built up another early lead and held off Newton South’s offense for a 4-3 finish.

As they approach the middle of the season, the team remains determined to maintain a high level of play with the goal of going deep into the state tournament this year. “We were very excited to get on the ice for the first day of practice and that excitement has not gone away,” states Evangelista, “We work hard every day to get better and stay sharp so that we are ready to compete day in and day out.” Additionally, despite strong individual performances, the players attribute their own personal success to teamwork and the ability to rely on each other for support.



BOYS' HOCKEY: FLYING POPSICLE

Diop states, “I believe that much of my success in keeping the puck out of the net this year is due to the play of my excellent defensemen. I can be confident between the pipes knowing that if I let a goal in, I have snipers who can go down and get me a goal.” With the team starting to find its stride and mature, it seems poised for a triumphant season.

By COLIN MURPHY, III
STAFF WRITER

The Boston Latin School Girls’ Hockey Team has been one of the most successful teams in the somewhat challenged BLS Athletic Department. In 2002, the girls won the Massachusetts State Championship, and they have had many fabulous seasons since then. This year’s Wolfpack is now ready to play against any team that dares to get in their way. Entering the season, the team had high expectations, which have been met so far. With impressive wins over Newton South, Westford and Dual County League newcomer Chelmsford, the team has jumped to a 3-4 record. Girls’ Hockey has a good mix of veteran leadership and young talent that meets the intimidating challenges from rival schools.

The anchor of the team is goaltender Siobhan Elvin (I), who has been protecting the pipes for the team since she made her first start in seventh grade. When asked what she thought of this year’s team, Elvin said, “I live for the sweet dangles and acrobatic twirls of forwards like Danielle Sharek (III). We may be underdogs when Tourney time comes around, but we’re underdogs with a nasty bite.” Olivia Collins (I) has been the lead defenseman for Elvin. Collins provides a killer mentality and always plays with a chip on her shoulder, a mindset that rubs off on her teammates. Collins really thinks this team is meeting their expectations and



GIRLS' HOCKEY: HOT ON THE ICE

states, “We have been working really well together as a team. I think that everyone has been working hard, and this is going to be a great season.” Another team leader is Samantha Prince (I), who has dedicated many long hours between the boards. “I really love this team,” says Prince. “Every day we leave it on the ice.”

The team also has many dynamic underclassmen that foretell a bright future. The terrific trio of Bridgette Nee (III), Ju-

lia Caldwell (III) and Marykate Lampron (III) has had huge impacts since joining the team in seventh grade. Nee is a dynamic scorer, and every goalie fears her presence. “I like to make eye contact with the goalie before I snipe on her, just to really show her who’s boss,” Nee explains. Caldwell has been dominating the ice ever since she started

off in the Charlestown Youth Hockey Association’s program just days after she took her first steps. When asked about her passion for the game, Caldwell said, “Hockey is a lot of fun. I like it a lot.” Jenny Pollard (IV) and Mallory O’Brien (IV) also have made a positive effect despite their young age. When Pollard was asked about playing at the varsity level, she said, “I’m from Southie. I know how to play hockey wicked good.” The Girls’ Hockey Team is looking to improve their record and make a long run in the state tournament by using all of their talents to their advantage. The team will definitely be making noise, so keep an eye out for them.

The Young Big Three

By ALI GHORBI, I
STAFF WRITER

My inspiration for this article came while I was sitting at the Celtics’ opening night at the TD Garden. They were beating the Charlotte Bobcats by over 20 points, and head coach Doc Rivers



THE THREE MUSKETEERS

decided to put in the rookies to give the starters a break. A few minutes later, I overheard someone behind me asking his friend, “Who is number four?” His friend replied, “I don’t know.” It then occurred

to me that even Celtics fans might not know the potential in the three youngsters that sit at the end of the bench. For those of you who do not know, I am referring to #26 Lester Hudson, #12 Bill Walker, and #4 J.R. Giddens.

Lester Hudson was the 58th overall pick in the 2009 NBA Draft. He played college basketball for the University of Tennessee at Martin where he was an All-American. Hudson has tremendous potential as a point guard or a shooting guard. He is a fantastic shooter; at UT Martin, he averaged 29 points, 7.9 rebounds, and 2.5 steals per game. Hudson is the only player in the history of the National Collegiate Athletic Association to put up a Quadruple-Double, which he did on November 13, 2007. Playing against Central Baptist College, he scored 25 points. He also had 12 rebounds, 10 assists and 10 steals. The only reason why Lester Hud-

son dropped to number 58 in the draft was because he lacked experience against top level teams. He only spent two years at UT Martin, and the level of competition in its league is certainly not comparable to that of the National Basketball Association. The future, however, looks bright for Lester.

Bill Walker, on the other hand, was selected by the Washington Wizards with the 47th pick in the 2008 draft. He was then traded to the Celtics for cash considerations. Walker has been very impressive during his time with the Celtics. Last year, he spent most of the season with the Utah Flash, the Celtics’ Developmental League team. There, he averaged 31 minutes, scored 18.9 points, and had 5.3 rebounds per game. Bill Walker is extremely athletic, intense, and very physical on defense, but most of all, he is a swingman. Bill Walker’s biggest weakness, however, is his inability to stay healthy; in his two seasons at Kansas State, he played only 37 games. He has torn both of his anterior cruciate ligaments, and he is currently on

the injury list for the Celtics. If he is able to stay healthy throughout his career, Bill Walker has the potential to be a threat for opposing teams.

The player with the most potential is certainly the shooting guard from the University of New Mexico, J.R. Giddens. Giddens originally played for Kansas, but since he did not get much playing time, he was transferred to New Mexico. In two years, he averaged 16 points, 8 rebounds, and 3 assists per game. J.R. Giddens is a shooting guard, whose defensive capabilities impressed Doc Rivers when he first saw Giddens play. He is an excellent dunker who has participated in a few All-American Slam Dunk contests. He plays with a lot of heart and enthusiasm, but his biggest strength is his ability to grab rebounds. For shooting guards, rebounding is usually not a forte, but due to his long arms and his excellent jumping ability, he grabs plenty of boards.

As long as these three remain a part of the organization, the future of the Celtics looks bright.

MLB Hot Stove Report

Continued from page 13

... significant value left in the free agent market. A few other notable signings, however, included second baseman Placido Polanco with the Philadelphia Phillies, aging catcher Ivan Rodriguez with the Washington Nationals, and starting pitcher Brad Penny with the St.

Louis Cardinals. A few of the free agents still on the market are catcher Bengie Molina, starting pitcher Chien-Ming Wang and outfielder Johnny Damon. I predict that Molina will sign with the New York Mets and Wang will sign with the Los Angeles Dodgers to reunite with manager Joe Torre. Damon has had trouble finding suitors, so it is likely that he will return to the Yankees for at least one more year.

To the Red Sox fans reading this article, it looks as though the Red Sox are done with spending this winter. They found their replacement for Bay in Cameron, and they seemed to have found the shortstop they have been looking for in Marco Scutaro. The Sox have also recently signed third baseman Adrian Beltre to replace Mike Lowell, who will very likely be traded before the start of the season.

They strengthened their starting pitching by adding Lackey, who will team up with fellow aces Jon Lester, Josh Beckett and Daisuke Matsuzaka (who hopefully will be healthy and won’t lie about any future injuries). There are still a few weeks remaining before the start of Spring Training, which will begin in late February for most teams. We can only wait and see what other moves will be made, if any.

SPORTS

The School's Largest Team

By LUKE MCKINNON, II
& DAVID VYSHESHKY, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Boston Latin School is truly proud of its amazing track and field team. The team boasts a roster of over one hundred runners and chances are that there is one of them among you now.

The team has a remarkable coaching staff. Coach Michael Meagher is in charge of the long distance athletes, while Coach Dacia Taylor trains the sprinters. Though track may seem like the most basic sport, it is, in reality, one of the hardest. For practice, the track team has to dash through the snow (and ice) to the Reggie Lewis Center. Once they have run all the way there, they must endure the harsh, dry atmosphere of the building, which houses about as much breathable air as Mars' atmosphere. A few innocent hours or seconds will leave you with an awful cough in exchange for improved endurance, proving that, despite the horrific conditions of the Reggie Lewis Center, the athletes remain dedicated. The track team is a huge collection of students; all

of them play a pivotal role.

The team, however, is not just about track. The team also partakes in field and includes a small number of throwers, jumpers and hurdlers. The fact that the team lacks a larger amount of field athletes may damage their overall record, but the track team does not necessarily measure real success by the amount of victories they have. They measure real success by how hard they try. Trust us, there is no team that works harder.

Some may find the team running around the track in circles, but they do not run in circles; they run for the win. As Nick D'Agostino (II) said, "For the past five years, we have been working very hard and next year we will be very good." The sprinters are also doing very well, especially the girls' 4x200 meters, which makes fiber-optics seem slow. But the sprinting team could not

have done it without their fearless leaders Meisha Brooks (I) and Matt Cronin (I). On the other hand, the distance side is led by captains Mai Hunt (I), Sarah



BLS TRACK IN ALL ITS GLORY

Minahan (I) and Leanna Ehrlich (I).

Many members of the track team believe that next year, our team will be twice as successful. The team is young, and works very hard but soon, they say, this hard work will pay off. And on behalf of BLS, we wish the track and field team the best of luck for the remainder of the season.

New Year's Game Truly "Classic"

By MIKE TOMASINI, II
STAFF WRITER

No matter where the Winter Classic ends up next season, there are going to be some pretty big shoes to fill. On New Year's Day, the Boston Bruins and the Philadelphia Flyers put on a spectacle for all of America to see right here in the Hub of the Universe. This year, Fenway Park was filled to the brim with 38,114 in attendance (myself included), and nearly all were sporting retro gear. One particularly diehard Philly fan wore an impressive Philly cheesesteak-shaped hat and a Philly jersey. Also, there were all sorts of pre-game festivities for the one-time event, but at the heart of it all, there was a hockey game to be played. And what a game it was.

From the moment the puck dropped until the game-winning goal in overtime, the crowd was electric. Bruins enforcer Shawn Thornton tangled with Flyers goon Daniel Carcillo midway through the first

period (the first ever fight in a Winter Classic). The two heavyweights exchanged bombs until Thornton overextended and was taken down. The Flyers struck first late in the second period due to a crucial mistake made by Bruins goalie Tim Thomas. Scott Hartnell of Philly was jamming in front of the net when Thomas shoved him out of the way and missed the puck, which floated by him into the goal. Despite many attempts, the Bruins remained scoreless throughout all of the second. With only a few minutes left, Philadelphia goalie Michael Leighton was inches away from his second shutout in as many games.

But it is called the Winter "Classic," and the hockey gods would not let it end this way. They blessed Marc Recchi with the hand-eye coordination necessary to deflect the small rubber cylinder moving at blazing speeds across the ice. Derek Morris's bomb toward the Flyer goal during a power play with only 2:19 to go in the game was tipped in by Recchi and brought tens of thousands of Bruins fans

out of their seats to scream for joy. The very ground the crowd stood upon shook. I may or may not have hugged the guy in the seat next to me.

Four minutes later, the 2010 Bridge-stone Winter Classic went to the books as Marco Sturm redirected a Patrice Bergeron shot in overtime past Leighton for the win. The NHL got its million dollar moment, and the city of Boston got a game to remember.

And after the game, the players of Team USA for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics were announced. Among those named was ex-Bruin Phil Kessel, at whose announcement there came a furor of boos. When the final name was announced, there was a moment of silence among those still in attendance, for Tim Thomas had not been named to the team. But just as this sunk in, Thomas climbed out of the dugout donning a jersey emblazoned with the Team USA logo. A perfect ending to the perfect game. The Olympics can't come soon enough.

Winning in the Rough Seas

By NOEL HAINES, I
& SANCHAY JAIN, I
STAFF WRITER & SPORTS EDITOR

No Boston Latin School team makes the best out of terrible situations quite like the Boys' Swimming Team. This season, the squad faced several debilitating challenges, a major one being the loss of many members of the class of 2009. The team



WARREN LUO '09 LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

from last year had a tremendous veteran presence and a talent pool that has been sorely missed by the now much-diminished Wolfpack force. In order to conquer this issue, the team has needed to scout

for new talent. "The biggest obstacle we have faced is finding new guys to step up to score points," said co-captain Songwen Chen (I). "We're still working to overcome this challenge." Younger swimmers such as Gary Knapik (IV), George Lok (III) and Thomas Worthy (V) have looked to fill the void, and have done an excellent job during this transitional period.

In addition to the loss of recent graduates, the team has the added pressure of competing without a diver. The last time the Wolfpack featured a diver was during the 2007-8 season. The outcome of high school swim meets is determined by the number of points each school accumulates. The absence of one portion results in the forfeiture of critical points and therefore an inflated number of defeats. As co-captain Chris Nguyen (I) demonstrated, "Our best meet was against Lincoln-Sudbury. If diving wasn't included, we were only four points away from winning. But everyone swam well that day." While the absence of divers would be a demoralizing blow to any team, the resilience of this squad is evident from the example set by its captains.

This season has definitely not been

a complete lost cause. The team has managed to secure two victories (both against Dual County League rival Bedford). Regardless of the outcome of any meet, the Wolfpack steps out of the pool learning more about the team's abilities. Prior to the season, the boys set a goal of qualifying the relay teams to the sectional and state tournaments. And Nguyen added, "There are also individual goals some of the swimmers have for themselves. These include going to sectionals and states for individual events. Some members of the team have already qualified." With a rigorous practice schedule at the Murphy Pool in Dorchester, more swimmers can look forward to also competing in the tournaments later in the year.

While the BLS Boys' Swimming Team is not a prominent team, it is a very dedicated unit, known for its ability to overcome tremendous obstacles. This season proved to be more of a rebuilding one, as the squad restocked on young talent to overcome the loss of key seniors. The Wolfpack definitely has a lot to look forward to in terms of next year, although they will certainly miss the seniors, especially Kent "Stallion" Li (I).

Spotlight Connor Dougherty



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM

By CONNOR NEE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Connor Dougherty, also known as the Greg Oden of Boston Latin School football, is one of the few people I've met in my life who not only shares my name, but spells it the same way. If you're unaware of who Connor is, then I have your answer here. He is the kid who taps you on the shoulder after lunch and then disappears into the crowd like an assassin. Connor is a huge fan of this sport, known by the upperclassmen as "smoking," and he is quite the professional. In fact, Connor organized a class-wide tournament when he was in tenth grade known as "Smoke Fest"—not to be confused with "Hemp Fest." This event had a grand total of 32 participants and even had a certain BLS teacher curious enough to suggest the sport to his friends.

Aside from his hobby of confusing all the students, from sixies to seniors, Connor is an integral part of the BLS football team. His talent, however, has not yet reached national scouts, as various injuries have plagued his years on the team. With enough experience in the realm of medical maladies to dub himself a doctor, Connor has clocked a grand total of 13 hours and 24 minutes in MRI machines, and countless doctors from around the world have come to study his less-than-resilient body. Although Connor may not have had as much time on the gridiron as he would have preferred, he does get his minutes on the lacrosse field.

I know what you're thinking: BLS doesn't have a lacrosse team. Well, you may have seen some people sporting a sultry blue sweatshirt around school with "Bulldogs Lacrosse" emblazoned across the chest. This team is Connor's team. Tired of the fact that BLS doesn't have a lacrosse team, Connor rallied up his bros from school and convinced them to join the Bulldogs, also known as the Boston High School Lacrosse Club. It comprises athletes from five different schools, all of which lack lacrosse teams, and Connor brought in the big guns from BLS. It was through this team that Connor's athletic ability truly shined. In fact, just recently, Connor received a letter from the prestigious Becker College, informing him that he is one of the school's top lacrosse recruits. We have yet to receive word from Connor on whether or not he is planning to follow up with this golden opportunity.

In all seriousness, though, Connor is one of the most amazing people I have met in my soon-to-be six years at BLS. If it weren't for him offering me a place to sleep after Junior Prom, I would have been a Southie kid stranded on the mean streets of Westie with Pat Turley on patrol. Luckily, Connor is a good friend and saved me from the infamous T-bone. So if you're looking for a friend, and you see him around school, go introduce yourself. After all, Connor is always looking for a new bro.



A 'Teaching Season'

By **SANCHAY JAIN, I**
SPORTS EDITOR

Arguably the most successful winter sports team in recent years for Boston Latin School has been the Boys' Basketball Team. Since head coach Brendan Smith inherited the position from Bob McNamara in 2006, BLS has won back-to-back Dual County League titles and has qualified for the state tournament all three seasons. Anchored by "The Big Three" of the Class of 2009, Naoise McDonnell, Nico Irano and Christian Onuoha, and a deep bench, the Wolfpack was a force to be reckoned with.

This season, however, has been a bit different. The team has seen an influx of new players and a completely revamped starting lineup. Playing prominent roles on the squad have been point guard Jack Duggan (III), big man Mike Wojewodzic (III) and wing man Minh Truong (III), boys who have previously never played in a varsity game. The Wolfpack has also seen tremendous play from veterans such as Tosin Ajewole (II), Khaleel Abdul-

Jabbar (II), Gregory Louizor (I) and Liam McCann (I). "Collectively, we are a very athletic team, even our big men," said McCann, when asked about the team's strengths. "Our game plan is to utilize our speed and athleticism to our advantage."

With all of the restructuring that has been going on, some might consider this season to be a rebuilding one, but the players and coaching staff strongly disagree. "No," was Coach Smith's emphatic reply. "A teaching season, yes, but not a rebuilding season. The learning curve has been steep, but the season is not lost." While many fans have criticized the removal of seniors such as former point guard Matt Elkin (I) from the team, Smith does not attribute the squad's sluggish start to such personnel cuts. "I love the group of guys we have," he said.

But with a record of 0-8, perhaps some of the fan criticism is justified. The games have ranged from close contests, such as the 64-58 defeat at the hands of Wayland in



IT'S ABOUT GOING HARD EACH AND EVERY DAY

overtime, to complete blowouts, such as the 63-45 loss to Bedford where Coach Smith, in his frustration, was heard yelling, "This is not varsity basketball!" Despite these early obstacles, the team is not terribly discouraged. "We're disappointed with the record," McCann said, "but in terms of play, it's all about going hard each and every day."

There is something to be said about the fact that the Wolfpack has been in a

transition period. As one player puts it, "Everyone expects us to be the same team as last year, but we're not. You can hold us to the same standards as teams past, but you can't expect us to be those same teams because when it comes down to it, we're not." The team hopes to improve gradually, however, and start to capitalize on opportunities it has been squandering.

With the season barely halfway through, BLS still has a chance to qualify for the state tournament. When asked which of its upcoming games he is looking forward to, McCann said, "We're most looking

forward to the next game on our schedule, whatever team that may be. Each game is equally important to us, and there's no reason to disregard certain opponents. We look forward to every chance we get to go out and play; it's as simple as that."

With an attitude like that, you just know that the boys have what it takes to rack up a few "W's" in the win column.

"This May Be the End of an Era"

By **ELI HOFFMAN, I**
STAFF WRITER

The high expectations for the 2009 New England Patriots came to a crashing halt on Sunday, January 10. The Patriots put on an absolutely horrendous display to finish off their season against the Baltimore Ravens, suffering their first home playoff loss since 1978. Ray Rice took it to the house on an 83-yard run on the first play of the game, and things only went downhill from there for the Patriots. Tom Brady fumbled on the first drive, leading to the second Ravens touchdown; he then threw his first of three interceptions on the next drive, resulting in a third. Having added a field goal, the Ravens made it 24-0 after just the first quarter—not quite the start that Coach Bill Belichick and the Patriots were looking for.

Baltimore, meanwhile, perfectly executed their game plan. "We knew we were going to come in here, beat them up, whip their ass, and then leave," linebacker Terrell Suggs so eloquently put.

The closest that the Pats would ever get to the Ravens was 27-14 in the second quarter, but the opposing team soon put down any hopes of a comeback as the Patriots' offense remained stagnant, unable to convert key third downs. Regardless of anyone's opinions of this year's team, no one could have foreseen such a pathetic showing at a home game that should have been won.

It would be easy to criticize the defense, as many have been doing all year, for this loss just by looking at the final score of 33-14. But anyone who pins this loss on the Patriots' lack of typical success this year on the defense has not watched the games. This is not by any means the greatest defense the Patriots have had in recent years, but this was a defense that showed much potential at times and did not get enough credit. The real problem was the offense, both in this game and for the entire season. The players were way too predictable on Sunday, running halfback draws almost every other play and not even attempting to throw the ball downfield to Randy Moss.

Predictability in the offense was a problem all year, perhaps coming as a result of the loss of offensive coordinator, Josh McDaniels, to Denver. Many fans fail to recognize the offensive struggles because of the games against the Titans, Bucs, and Jaguars—all blowouts, in which the offense scored at least 35 points.

There were several games, however, where the offense failed to score or maintain drives in key situations. In Sunday's game, the defense actually played pretty well considering the circumstances. After Rice's touchdown run on the first play of the game and the subsequent drive, the defense allowed just 150 yards to the Ravens' offense. They may have allowed 33 points, but they were given short fields of just 25 and 17 yards to work with after Brady's turnovers. Also, there are not a whole lot of defenses in the league that will not give up touchdowns in those situations. Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco threw for just 34 yards and still won the game. Even Mark Sanchez threw more than that in the Jets' playoff win.

In the end, I could argue all day

about who should receive the blame for this complete and utter failure of a season, but the fact is that everyone is to blame: the defense, offense, special teams, coaches—everyone. Nobody showed up to play at a time when everyone needed to and, really, the only word that can describe this is embarrassment.

This year's Patriots lacked an identity. Every great team has its bread and butter that it can rely on. This team did not have that, and as hard as it is to say, this may be the end of an era. The only thing that I can possibly salvage from this year is that it was a bit of a transition year. Brady was still coming off a major injury, so one would think that he could improve after another offseason of work. Wes Welker may not be the same, or even play next year, which is why the role of receiver is one of the many holes this team needs to fill in the offseason, along with those of a pass rusher, cornerback and linebacker. And though this was Belichick's worst year of coaching, he is still one of the best in the league.

He just needs to remind us why.

Bowl Season Gone Stale

By **STEVEN PRINCIPI, I**
STAFF WRITER

If a bowl season goes by and nobody notices, did it really happen? A bowl season marred by coaching scandals, boring games and the biggest cop out in recent history has left me thinking it hasn't.

The 2009-2010 Bowl Champion Series may have been the most boring one in two decades. Powerhouses like Florida and Virginia Tech played in games that were blowouts from the start. Since the most interesting games were played either early in the day (Oklahoma vs. Stanford) or between teams nobody knew existed (Bowling Green vs. Idaho), most of the good stuff went largely unnoticed. SportsCenter included more updates on the state of Texas Tech's Mike Leach and about the end of Tim Tebow's career than the actual games. And the two

teams that everyone wanted to see only got the chance to play in the wrong way. In the end, even the National Championship Game was boring with an early injury to a star player ending the chances of one team.

First of all, if you are any sort of a college football fan, you know all about Tim Tebow, so I'm not going to waste any space about him. All I can say: great career, great last game, good-bye. Head coach Mike Leach, however, deserves a mention. If you have not heard, this is the guy who tried to delay being fired by appealing for an investigation into the aforementioned canning. He didn't think that his school, Texas Tech, had any cause to fire him. Without going into too much detail, he wanted to toughen up his players. Allegedly, he locked a player with a concussion in a weight room for three hours without anywhere to sit or lie down. I agree with Leach: he should not have been fired. He deserved

to be arrested. For four days, all anyone had heard of was what was going to happen to him. Except nobody cared. At all.

Part two of my little rant here has to do with what I have come to call Cop Out 2010. In other words: the Fiesta Bowl which featured Boise State vs. TCU, a game that never should have happened. These two programs are mid-major schools that only have a chance to prove themselves against the big boys during the bowl season. Over the last few seasons, they have gone 2 for 2. So naturally, our boys in the BCS decided to put them up against each other, in effect sucking up all excitement over a big upset from this year's bowl mania. I say lies. These teams played their hearts out all season, neither one losing a single game. They got robbed of their only chance to make history. Only one word jumps to mind: terrible.

Even in actual games, nothing inter-

esting happened. Top NFL prospect Ndamukong Suh and his Nebraska Cornhuskers destroyed the Arizona Wildcats 33-0; Boise State beat TCU 17-10 in the game that never should have been; Florida routed Cincinnati in the Sugar Bowl 51-24; and Ohio State beat Oregon in a very boring Rose Bowl 26-17. Is there one person out there who would have noticed if they skipped the Orange Bowl? A boring Iowa team beat an even more boring Georgia Tech team 24-14 to prove once more that the Big Ten conference is bad, but the ACC is worse.

Finally, the Alabama Crimson Tide defeated the Colt McCoy-less Texas Longhorns 37-21 to capture the national championship. This means only one thing: we are somehow living in a world where Nick Saban has two national championship trophies.

Nick Saban?
Terrible, just terrible.